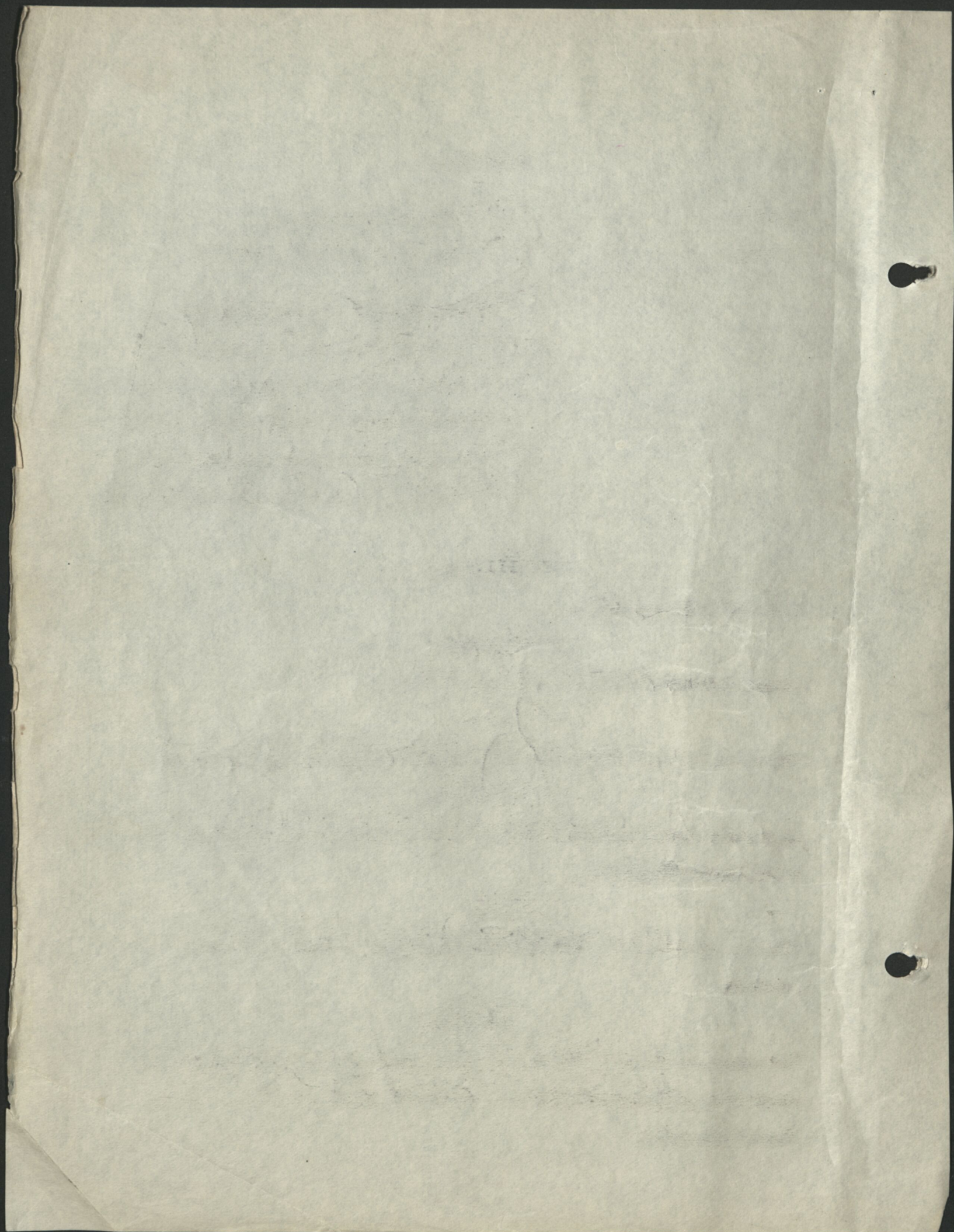


ACT III.



ACT III.

TIME -

The next morning.

SCENE-

The same as Act I and II

(Conchita sits crouched in one corner near the window at Back between window and door. Amilia sits near window, down Right. Maria stands looking out; the shutters are half open. After a pause Conchita speaks.)

CONCHITA

You still blame me --

AMILIA

What difference who is to blame now.

MARIA

It is quiet out there as a tomb, even the cannon have ceased.

CONCHITA

I should think it about time after keeping us awake all night with their fighting.

MARIA

What a victory for the Revolutionists! What a victory for Manuel!

CONCHITA

How can you tell? We don't know whether the Revolutionists took the city after all -- We don't know anything shut up here this way!

ACT III

The next morning.
The scene as last I said it.

(Gonzalez sits cross-legged in one corner near the window at back between window and door. Maria stands near window, down light. Maria stands looking out; the apartment was half open. After a pause Gonzalez speaks.)

GONZALEZ

You still think so --

MARIA

That difference who is so plain now.

MARIA

It is quiet out there as a bomb, even the cannon have ceased.

GONZALEZ

I should think it about time after keeping us awake all night with that lighting.

MARIA

That a victory for the revolutionists? What a victory for

GONZALEZ

How can you tell? No one's know whether the revolutionists took the city or not -- No one's know anything about it

Save this way

MARIA

Didn't we see them swarming through the streets to the Plaza-
and we haven't heard any guns from the South, have we? So
they must have taken the city --

CONCHITA

Why doesn't your father and that Manuel of yours come then?

MARIA

They will, they will -- any minute now!

AMILIA

Phillipe should have been here long ago if the Revolutionists
have won! They must have gone to the prison for Olivarez at
once. Oh, what can be keeping Phillipe!

CONCHITA

Maybe Mendoza had Olivarez shot before his men got there and
then --

MARIA

(Clutches the shutter)

Oh, no, no! They couldn't have done that! The fighting
started too soon after he left.

AMILIA

Why doesn't Phillipe come then?

CONCHITA

Why doesn't somebody come to tell us something! Of course
Olivarez might have been shot in the fighting! You can't tell,
they may both be lying in the hospital - wounded and bleeding --

MARIA

(Frantically)

...we see them swimming through the streets to the Plaza-
and we haven't heard any news from the South, have we? So
they must have taken the city --

CONCHITA

My dear's your father and that Manuel of yours come then?

ANITA

They will, they will -- my minute now!

ANITA

Philip should have been here long ago if the revolutionists
have won. They must have gone to the prison for Oliveras at
once. Oh, what can be keeping Philip?

CONCHITA

My dear's father and Oliveras shot before his men got there and

ANITA

(Catching the simper)

Oh, no, no! They couldn't have done that! The fighting
started too soon after he left.

ANITA

My dear's Philip's come then?

CONCHITA

My dear's anybody else to tell us something? Of course
Oliveras might have been shot in the fighting? You can't tell,
they may still be lying in the hospital -- wounded and bleeding --

ANITA

(Overlaidly)

Oh, Mother, I must go. I'll go to every hospital until I find them!

AMILIA

Hush, Maria, - hush! You can't go out into the streets alone. The fighting may break out again any minute --

CONCHITA

And if not drunken soldiers will be everywhere. It is when they are drunk with victory and wine that they ^{often} rape women and commit terrible crimes! No, no! You can't go out in the streets. We three unprotected women are none too safe here!

AMILIA

We are safe enough here now, but if Phillipe never comes back to us what shall we do --

CONCHITA

Sh! Someone's on the balcony --

MARIA

(Starts across)

Who's there?

PHILLIP

(His voice off-stage - Left, calling to someone in patio)

Yes, wait right there - Only fifteen or twenty minutes. Wait no matter what happens; ~~I'll reward you well!~~

MARIA

Father!

AMILIA

(Running across)

That you Phillipe?

(He enters quickly - Maria and Amilia both are clinging to him embracing him, etc.)

Oh, Phillipe, we thought you were dead! My Phillipe! At last! I had almost given up hope. The Blessed Virgin has given you back to us.

MARIA

Oh, Father -- you're all right, aren't you? But where is Manuel?

(All three women are speaking at once)

CONCHITA

Where have you been all this time, Senor? We have all been frantic. We've been alone for hours! Anything might have happened.

PATTERSON

(Speaks excitedly)

It's all right - Amilia - I've been all right. No need to worry about me, but we have no time to lose now. Amilia, you and Maria must pack what you can - you only have ten minutes. We've got to get the first train out of the city and it leaves in twenty-five minutes! I have a car below --

ANITA

(Running across)

What you Phillip?

(He enters quickly - Anita and

Anita both are clinging to him

embracing him, etc.)

Oh, Phillip, we thought you were dead! By Phillip! At

last! I had almost given up hope. The blessed Virgin has

given you back to us.

ANITA

Oh, Father -- you're all right, aren't you? But where is

Philip?

(All three women are speaking at

once)

COMBINATION

There have you been all this time, Henry? We have all been

thinking we've been alone for hours! Anything might have

happened.

PATTERSON

(Speaking excitedly)

It's all right - Anita - I've been all right. No need to

worry about me, but we have no time to lose now. Anita, you

and Anita, what time was it? - you only have ten minutes.

We've got to get the first train out of the city and it leaves

in twenty-five minutes! I have a car below --

AMILIA

Train - what for?

MARIA

Where are we going?

PATTERSON

To the border - To the States as quick as we can get there. I have all our passports and have arranged everything. Now, hurry, there is no time to lose! The car is waiting in the side street.

AMILIA.

But what's happened, why have we got to leave like this?

MARIA

Father, what's happened to Manuel? He's not dead is he?

CONCHITA

Yes, where's Olivarez?

PATTERSON

Nothing has happened to Olivarez. He is more alive than ever. Trevino's made him a general already and he is prancing around showing off his medals and his new uniform to everyone!

(He has turned to desk and is
sorting papers all through the
next)

But listen here -- we haven't any more time to talk. If you don't get what you can into your bags at once you'll have to go without anything but the clothes on your backs because I don't intend to lose that train!

ANITA

Train - what time?

ANITA

Where are we going?

FATHERSON

To the border - To the States as quick as we can get there.
I have all our passports and have arranged everything. Now,
hurry, there is no time to lose! The car is waiting in the
side street.

ANITA

But what's happened, why have we got to leave like this?

ANITA

Father, what's happened to Emanuel? He's not dead is he?

CONCETTA

Yes, where's Oliver?

FATHERSON

Nothing has happened to Oliver. He is more alive than ever.
Treviso's wife has a general already and he is preparing around
moving off his medals and his new uniform to everyone!

(He has turned to look and is

sorting papers all through the

next)

But listen here - we haven't any more time to talk. If you
don't get what you can into your bags at once you'll have to
go without anything but the clothes on your backs because I
don't intend to lose that train!

AMILIA

But Phillipe -- I don't understand. Why have we got to go?
You never talked before of going so soon.

PATTERSON

Now don't argue about it, Amilia, just trust me to know best.
We have got to leave the city at once!

CONCHITA

You haven't murdered anyone, have you, Senor?

AMILIA

Oh, Phillipe?

PATTERSON

(Half humorously)

No, no - but by God, I almost wish I had! No, I have done
nothing -- no one is after me. But hurry along Amilia and
I'll explain later.

AMILIA

But Phillipe, I don't want to leave Mexico and go to the Es-
tatus Unidos. No one speaks Spanish there. I don't know any-
body --

CONCHITA

Oh, no, Senor, don't take Amilia away from her home and all
her friends. It would be cruel!

PATTERSON

(Over to her)

Now Amilia, dear, remember I always told you I might have to
go back to the States some day and you agreed to go with me.
I've stayed here a good deal longer than I would have otherwise

ANITA

But Philippe -- I don't understand, why have we got to go?
You never talked before of going so soon.

PATTERSON

Now don't argue about it, Anita, just trust me to know best.
We have got to leave the city at once!

CONCHITA

You haven't murdered anyone, have you, Genet?

ANITA

Oh, Philippe?

PATTERSON

(Half passionately)

No, no -- but by God, I almost wish I had! No, I have done
nothing -- no one is after me. But hurry along Anita and
I'll explain later.

ANITA

But Philippe, I don't want to leave Mexico and go to the States.
No one speaks Spanish there. I don't know any-

body --

CONCHITA

Oh, no, Genet, don't take Anita away from her home and all
her friends. It would be cruel!

PATTERSON

(Over to her)

Now Anita, Genet, remember I always told you I might have to
go back to the States some day and you agreed to go with me.
I've stayed here a good deal longer than I would have otherwise

for your sake. So now if you will just be a good soldier and make it easy for me, it will help a lot. For one thing, Trevino will at once confiscate all foreign owned property -- so I'd be left high and dry down here --

AMILIA

Phillipe dear, of course I will follow you wherever you go.

CONCHITA

Ah -- how like Ruth!

AMILIA

(Goes right on)

But to go off without seeing any of my friends first, why it would be dreadful -- just give Maria and me time to get used to the idea and to learn a little English --

CONCHITA

Yes, give them a day or two at least, Senor!

MARIA

Yes, father, there is really no need of being in such a hurry is there? *To Table -*

PATTERSON

Maria, if there were no need I wouldn't have made this demand.

(Looks at watch)

Now -- there is only ^{Ten}~~five~~ minutes left. I'm sorry but --

MARIA

(Nervously)

I'm sorry, father, but -- you see -- I can't go now. You and Mother go ahead without me -- but I can't, that is -- I mean -- I can't go until I have seen Manuel and even then maybe --

for your sake. So now if you will just be a good soldier
and make it easy for me, it will help a lot. For one thing,
Treviso will at once confiscate all foreign owned property --
so I'd be left high and dry down here --

ANITA

Phillips gear, of course I will follow you wherever you go.

CONCHITA

Oh - how nice that!

ANITA

(Goes right on)

But to go off without seeing any of my friends first, why it
would be dreadful - just give Maria and me time to get used
to the idea and to learn a little English --

CONCHITA

Yes, give them a day or two at least, Samoy!

MARIA

Yes, father, there is really no need of being in such a hurry
is there?

PATTERSON

Well, if there were no need I wouldn't have made this demand.
(Looks at watch)

Now - there is only five minutes left. I'm sorry but --

MARIA

(Nervously)

I'm sorry, father, but -- you see -- I can't go now. You and
Mother go ahead without me -- but I can't, that is -- I mean --
I can't go until I have seen Samuel and even then maybe --

AMILIA

Maria -- be careful!

PATTERSON

(Carefully)

What has Manuel got to do with it - daughter?

MARIA

Well - you see father - I promised to marry him --

(She turns away half crying)

So, I couldn't go off without - well - without

(Sobs)

I couldn't go, that's all!

PATTERSON

So, it's true then. He was right. He has persuaded you to think you want to marry him --

MARIA

I know I want to marry him. I love him, father.

(Patterson turns, trying not to say what is in his mind)

AMILIA

Phillipe, don't be too hard on her!

CONCHITA

~~The deceiver! The brute!~~

PATTERSON

~~There you have it Amilia!~~ That is why we must leave at once! That's the reason I kept telling you we haven't a minute to spare! Olivarez is on his way here now. He is drunk with

ANITA

Will -- be careful!

PATTERSON

(Cautiously)

That's what I want to do with it -- daughter!

ANITA

Well -- you see father -- I promised to marry him --

(She turns away half crying)

Oh, I couldn't go off without -- well -- without

(Sobs)

I couldn't go -- that's all!

PATTERSON

Oh, that's true then. He was right. He has persuaded you to

think you want to marry him --

ANITA

I know I want to marry him. I love him, father.

(Patterson turns, trying not to

say what is in his mind)

ANITA

Will, don't be too hard on her!

CONCETTA

That's what I want to do with it!

PATTERSON

That's the reason I kept telling you we haven't a minute to

spare! Oliver is on his way now. He is back with

Conchita.
The deceiver - The brute!

III-9

excitement and liquor. His plan is to marry Maria at once and take her off tonight. Tonight, mind you. The fool! The idiot! When I said I would not allow such a thing, he told me politely it didn't matter - he would take her anyhow. Being a general he thinks he can do anything he likes with anybody! And what's more he pretty much can in this city - right now! He's the hero of the hour! Holds the city in the hollow of his hand. That's why we've got to get Maria on that train before he realizes - and in the United States before he can catch up to us -

(Maria stands by window, choking back sobs)

AMILIA

But, Phillipe --

PATTERSON

"But - but"? Surely now Amilia you can see we have no time to lose - Please hurry!

AMILIA

I only thought perhaps Phillipe, that if Maria loves Manuel Olivarez - and he is a general - well not every girl can marry a general - and

PATTERSON

Good God, Amilia, you would see your daughter married to a man like Olivarez? Just because he's a general? ^{EVEN} ~~sure~~ that may not last for more than a month or two! How do you know Trevino will stay in power?

CONCHITA

Olivarez is nothing but a brigand! An unscrupulous bandit! Surely Amilia - you couldn't consider such a man for your sweet - innocent-minded child?

MARIA

(Turning to them)

Oh, how can all of you say such things about Manuel when he is not here to stand up for himself. Just because he lives in the hills doesn't mean he's a bandit and a desperado --

PATTERSON

No, Maria dear, but even if he never was a bandit or a desperado - think, Mary, think of the wild life he must have lead all these years in the hills. You have been carefully raised, kept close at home or in the convent; you know very little of the realities of life - my sweet child.

CONCHITA

(Butting in)

Your father is quite right, Maria.

PATTERSON

You are in no way prepared to face life with a man like this. Maria, it hurts me deeply to see you look like that, but, in all fairness to you dear, I cannot let you do this thing.

MARIA

But father, I love him so!

(She puts her head on his shoulder and weeps. Her father puts his arm around her and pats her gently)

CONVERSATION

Elvira is nothing but a pretence! An unscrupulous bandit!
Sweetly smiling - you wouldn't consider such a man for your
sweet - innocent-minded child?
MARTIN

(Turning to them)

Oh, how can all of you say such things about Manuel when he
is not here to stand up for himself. Just because he lives
in the hills doesn't mean he's a bandit and a desperado --

MARTIN

No, Elvira dear, but even if he never was a bandit or a des-
perado - think, Mary, think of the wild life he must have
lead all these years in the hills. You have been carefully
reared, kept close at home or in the convent; you know very
little of the realities of life - my sweet child.

CONVERSATION

(Meeting in)

Your father is quite right, Martin.

MARTIN

You are in no way prepared to face life with a man like this.
Martin, it hurts me deeply to see you look like that, but, in
all fairness to you dear, I cannot let you do this thing.

MARTIN

But father, I love him!

(She puts her hand on his shoulder)

and weeps. Her father goes to

are around her and puts her gently)

PATTERSON

Daughter dear - listen to me! How can you really know whether you love Manuel or not? You have only seen him here in this room for four or five days. You know very few other men to compare him with. You have never seen him with other men - other women.

CONCHITA

If the silly child hadn't been so busy falling in love she would have seen that the scapegrace was trying to make love to me at the same time he was making love to her! As a matter of fact it was probably only because I refused him that he turned to one so young and innocent as Maria. And I think you'll find after all this commotion he really has no intention of marrying Maria at all!

MARIA

Conchita - how can you!

AMILIA

Conchita, you don't mean that - really?

PATTERSON

I have to contradict you there Conchita, to be just to Olivarez. He has already seen the priest and he is now making further legal arrangements. No, he intends to marry Maria now - today.

CONCHITA

Well, all I have to say is that he may want to marry Maria now, but last night he tried to get into my room. Oh, I am humiliated to be telling you what I hoped and prayed no one would ever know but for Maria's sake I must cast aside all

LAWSON

Brighter day - listen to me! How can you really know
whether you love Harold or not? You have only seen him here
in this room for four or five days. You know very few other
men to compare him with. You have never seen him with other
men - other women.

CONCETTA

If the ally said he'd been so busy falling in love she
would have seen that the concubine was trying to make love
to me at the same time he was making love to her! As a
matter of fact it was probably only because I refused him
that he turned to me so young and innocent as Maria. And
I think you'll find after all this conversation he really has
no intention of marrying Maria at all!

MARIA

Concetta - how can you!

MARIA

Concetta, you don't see that - really?

LAWSON

I have to contradict you there Concetta, he is just to be
trusted. He has already seen the priest and he is now making
further legal arrangements. No, he intends to marry Maria
now - today.

CONCETTA

Well, all I have to say is that he was sent to marry Maria
now, but last night he tried to get into my room. Oh, I am
impossible to be talking you that I hoped and prayed no one
would ever know that for Maria's sake I must stay outside all

pride and shame - ! He, the demon, even went so far as to threaten me last night that if I did not let him in tonight he would - he would make up things about me and have me put out of your house!

MARIA

I don't believe you! It's a lie!

AMILIA

Oh, Maria, you mustn't -- She couldn't tell you a thing like that about herself if it wasn't true -! No one would make up a thing like that! Poor Conchita! What a devil we have been harboring in our midst!

MARIA

(Crying on her father's shoulder)

I don't believe her, father --

PATTERSON

Whether we believe her or not Maria, you must believe me when I tell you that when Olivarez took your uncle and myself to his camp, after rescuing us, in the camp near where he had been fighting he had his women along with him.

MARIA

Oh, father!

PATTERSON

Most of the men have, it is the custom with the Mexican soldiers. And although Olivarez may love you very much, a man who is in the habit of having many women, will not stop having many women even for the love of one --

pride and shame - I do, the women, even more so far as to
thrusting me last night that if I did not let him in tonight
he would - he would make up things about me and have me put
out of your house!

MARIA

I don't believe you! It's a lie!

EMILIA

Oh, Maria, you mustn't -- She wouldn't tell you a thing
like that about herself if it were true --! No one would
name up a thing like that! Poor Conchita! What a devil we
have been harboring in our midst!

MARIA

(Looking on her father's shoulder)

I don't believe her, father --

EMILIA

Whether we believe her or not Maria, you must believe me
when I tell you that when Conchita took your uncle and myself
to his camp after receiving us, in the camp near where he had
been living he had his women along with him.

MARIA

Oh, father!

EMILIA

Most of the men here, to the custom with the Mexican
people, although I know they have got very much, a man who
is in the habit of having many women, will not stop having very
many even for the love of one --

MARIA

(She cries harder)

PATTERSON

That is life Maria - as you will learn -- you have to face it.

MARIA

Oh why, why didn't you let me become a nun long ago then I would have been safe in the convent. Now --

PATTERSON

It might have been better, but -- too late now -- and it will be too late to get away if you and your mother don't come at once. See if anyone is coming yet, Amilia. Maria - look at me. I know this is hard -- I hate to see you suffer so but I declare to God that if you marry this man now, without at least giving the matter time and more thought, it will break my heart. Your mother and I have not spent all these years of heartache and watchfulness to have you give yourself to a man before you can be sure whether you love him or not. Now if you will make up your mind to be a brave girl and come with us at once, I promise you that I will not interfere with your writing to Manuel and in a year if you still love him this way I will bring you back to him.

MARIA

(Breaking through her sobs)

No, no -- I never want to see him again. Take me away and let me go into a convent -- that's all I want now. X e

MARIA

(The other enters)

PATRICIA

What is it, Maria - as you will learn -- you have to face it.

MARIA

Oh, why, why didn't you let me become a nun long ago then I

would have been safe in the convent. -- Now --

PATRICIA

It might have been better, but -- too late now -- and it will

be too late to get away if you and your mother don't come at

once. See if anyone is coming yet, Maria. Maria - look

at me. I know this is hard -- I hate to see you suffer as

but I declare to God that if you marry this man now, without

at least giving the matter time and more thought, it will

break my heart. Your mother and I have not spent all these

years of heartache and watchfulness to have you give yourself

to a man before you can be sure whether you love him or not.

Now if you will make up your mind to be a brave girl and come

with me at once, I promise you that I will not interfere with

your writing to Samuel and in a year if you still love him this

way I will bring you back to him.

MARIA

(Speaking through her teeth)

No, no -- I never want to see him again. Take me away and let

me go into a convent -- that's all I want now.

CONCHITA

(Tries not to show she is pleased,
rushes over to Maria)

That's a sweet, good, sensible child! All of us sensitive
women should take the veil! I always regret I didn't do it
when I was younger.

PATTERSON

(Is still comforting Maria. He
motions to Amilia to get the coats
and hats)

Quick Amilia - we will have just time to make it! Whether we
miss the train or not we've got to get out of this building
before Olivarez comes. You, Conchita - you won't mind seeing
him alone, will you?

CONCHITA

(Figuring)

Well, it will be difficult!

PATTERSON

Simply tell him that we have gone. We have all gone to the
United States. Nothing more is necessary.

CONCHITA

Ciertamente, Senor. That's all I will tell him. Trust me.
But you must be quick Amilia! He might be below this minute!

(Amilia has gotten hats and
coats from rack near door. She
puts hers on quickly, throws
cloak around Maria and either

CONCHITA: (Sings)

(Tries not to show she is pleased)

(Takes over to Maria)

That's a good, sensible child! All of us sensitive

you should take the veil! I always regret I didn't do it

when I was younger.

PART FOUR

(In still comforting Maria. He

motions to Maria to get the coats

and hats)

Wait Maria - we will have time to make it! (Then he

looks at train or not we've got to get out of this building

before Oliver comes. Now, Conchita - you won't mind seeing

the place, will you?

CONCHITA

(Sings)

And it will be beautiful!

PART FIVE

It's all right, but we have gone. We have all gone to the

United States. Nothing more is necessary.

CONCHITA

Remember, Conchita. That's all I will tell him. Trust me.

But you must be quiet until! He might be below this minute!

Conchita has gotten into and

coats from back near door. She

puts them on quickly, then

looks around Maria and other

carries her hat or puts it on
for her as Maria still clings to
her father) (Conchita starts to
cry)

Adios Amilia --

AMILIA

(Embracing Conchita)

Adios Conchita -- Don't forget us!

CONCHITA

No, never, Amilia, never! I'll likely never see you again,
you will be far away as if dead to us, but I will never for-
get you!

(They weep on each other's
shoulders)

PATTERSON

(Impatiently)

We will come back again to visit at any rate! Now, good-
bye, Conchita. Come (Amilia-~~come!~~)

AMILIA

Say goodbye to all our friends, Conchita, the de Lara's, the
Hernandez - Oh, it's dreadful to have to go off like this -

And -

(She looks about)

Our things Phillipe. All our pretty things, we'll never see
them again.

PATTERSON

Yes, yes, Amilia. ~~I will have~~ ^{will} the men at the office have them packed and shipped. Conchita will give them the key. You'll keep the front door key for us until they pack, won't you, Conchita?

CONCHITA

Yes, yes. I will look after everything - But hurry --!

PATTERSON

And you needn't let Olivarez in when he comes if you don't want to - just tell him we have gone.

CONCHITA

(With other ideas in her head)

Yes, of course! ~~That's just the idea!~~ I needn't let him in at all. I'll just talk to him through the key-hole! To be sure he might try to break down the door, but I am a Martinez. I will do everything to hold the fort, as it were, as long as I can -- ~~if it succumbs and I am slaughtered I will die happy to have been the sacrifice in the cause of pure innocent girlhood!~~

PATTERSON

Oh I don't think you need to be worried as much as all that about Olivarez. He's got some sense and he's not a brute!

MARIA.

(Over to Conchita)

Oh, Conchita, don't be too cruel to him, please? Let him in and he won't be so angry if you tell him I'll write to him. Oh, father, I can't give him up forever no matter what he's done. Conchita, tell him I will come back to him in a year -

Father says I can. A year - you understand? Give him that message for me Conchita and be nice to him!

(She kisses Conchita)

CONCHITA

Very well, Maria - I will do the best I can with him for you. But now do get started. I hear voices below.

(Rushes to window)

PATTERSON

Tell him anything but delay him as long as possible because *we only have a small chance of making that train unless that train starts late we'll never make it now. Come - now!*
Maria!

(Just as they all three turn to go out through the archway, a soldier comes reeling onto balcony and into room)

SOLDIER

Senorita Americano! Where's the Senorita Americano!

(He is slightly intoxicated)

PATTERSON

Come - we can't stop.

SOLDIER

(To Maria)

If you are the Senorita Americano - Juan Lopez said - take this - (he gives her battered guitar) and he said pray for him -

Father says I can. A year - you understand? Give him

that message for me tonight and he will be able to help

(The woman continues)

Very well, Maria - I will do the best I can with him for you.

But now he has started. I hear voices below.

(Looks to window)

INTERMISSION

Sell him anything but delay him as long as possible because

unless that train starts later we'll never make it now. Come -

Wait!

(Just as they all three turn to

go out through the doorway, a

solider comes rushing into the

body and into room)

SCENE

SCENE: Maria's room. Maria is seated at her dressing

table, looking at her reflection in the mirror.

PATRICK

There - we can't stop.

SCENE

(To Maria)

If you are the woman's mother - then I am sure - I will

do - (he gives her a look) and he will pay for

him -

MARIA

Juan? Where is he?

SOLDIER

Juan - is dead. We shot him - we don't mean to but we don't know which side he fight for - a mistake! But he got shot!

(Maria starts to cry - looking at battered guitar)

He told me to give you his guitar in the patio but when I get here I find it like that.

MARIA

(Through her tears)

Juan is dead - and it's all my fault.

SOLDIER.

Don't cry for Juan - pretty Senorita -- I'll do as well - let me -

PATTERSON

(Gives him money)

Here, boy, go now. We have all got to go - We're in a great hurry --

CONCHITA

Yes, yes. Get out, soldier - these people have got to catch a train!

SOLDIER

(Bowing out backwards, stumblingly)

Senor Americano, gracias, gracias!

(The others start, too)

WELL

What's the matter with you? - I don't know.

WELL

That's all right. We don't want to put you down.

Now which side is right for - a mistake! But he got shot!

(He starts to cry - looking

at battered guitar)

He told me to give you his guitar in the past but when I

got home I found it like this.

WELL

(Through her tears)

That's all right - and it's all my fault.

WELL

What's the matter with you? - I'll be as well - let

me

WELL

(He starts to cry - looking

at guitar, but now he has to go - he's in a great

hurry -

WELL

Yes, yes, get out, a letter - these people have got to catch

a train!

WELL

(He starts to cry - looking

at guitar, but now he has to go - he's in a great

hurry -

CONCHITA

Adios - Amilia - Adios Maria - Senor. I hate to see you go!
It's dreadful - I will be so lonely. Adios!

(They call back good-bye -
and adios. She waves from
balcony)

(Talks as she turns back into room)

At last! My chance! Ave Maria!

(She keeps on mumbling to herself as she crosses
to look out window)

At last that little white-faced Maria is out of the way.
Tell him she will be back in a year? Bah! In a year who
can tell - what will happen! He's a general now - a
Martinez can afford to over-look many things for a General.
He needs a woman like me. He will forget all about Maria
when he finds I am here ready and willing.

(She has opened window blinds wide & the room is
flooded with sunlight. She goes to the mirror and
starts fixing herself up. She has large powder puff
in a small bag she carries and a comb. She gets
out more jewels from her stocking. All through this
mumbling to herself and running to window every time
she hears a voice below)

Why doesn't he come? ~~There he is now!~~ No. But he will come.
Ah, I am so frightened. What will I say to him? ~~How will I~~
~~keep him?~~ There - that's his voice! No, everyone is celebrat-
ing. After all, the longer the better, the train may not yet

CONCHITA

have started. ~~Oh, if I could only be sure they were on their way!~~

(She has sat down and posed herself - seen that her skirt was too long has gotten safety pins and pinned it up to her knees. There is more laughing and talking, the voices of three men are heard coming up the steps)

OLIVAREZ

(Outside)

Maria! ~~Mi Maria!~~ *Maria!*

CONCHITA

His voice! Oh! At last!

(She half squeals with delight. She sits in the chair and poses herself)

OLIVAREZ

(Bangs on the door outside)

It is I, Maria! General Olivarez! Your General!

CONCHITA

(Half scared, timidly goes to the door)

I'm coming.

(She opens the door. Stands looking at him coyly. Two officers follow him. He starts to bow very low)

OLIVAREZ

(Straightening up)

Oh, it's you, Senorita!

(Olivarez is not tipsy, but his eyes are bright

[Faint, illegible text at the bottom of the page]

from excitement and liquor and his voice and actions are boisterous)

CONCHITA

Our hero! General Olivarez! We are so proud! Viva la Revolution! Viva Olivarez!

OLIVAREZ

(Bows)

Gracias, Senorita. And Senorita see how thoughtful I am - I have brought for you two nice young officers - my aides - ^{Capitan} ~~Lieutenants~~ Perez and Alvarado. Boys - this is Senorita Conchita Martinez, no less! Viva la Senorita!

(They click their heels and bow)

CONCHITA

(Bowing)

I am honored to meet you, Senores.

OLIVAREZ

^{Capitan} Lieutenant Perez is to be best man at the wedding. But where is Maria?

CONCHITA

(Up to him)

Oh, mi General, you look so handsome in your new uniform. All that gold braid is so becoming.

OLIVAREZ

Gracias! I must look my best today. I don't get married every day. Where is Maria?

Three excitement and light and his voice and

action and (interior)

CONCETTA

Oh, how! (General Oliver!) He is so good! Viva is

Revolution! Viva Oliver!

OLIVER

(Sings)

General, General, and General see how beautiful I am -

I have brought for you two young officers - my aides -

General, General, and General, they - this is General

General, General, he is! Viva is General!

(They enter their doors and bow)

CONCETTA

(Singing)

I am married to meet you, General.

OLIVER

General, General, he is so good! Viva is

CONCETTA

(Sings to him)

Oh, how! General, you look so handsome in your new uniform. All

that gold braid is so becoming.

OLIVER

General, I must look up next Sunday. I don't get married

every day. There is time!

CONCHITA

(Taking his arm)

Ah, must you always think only of the child Maria? Have you not now a moment to spare for poor little Conchita?

OLIVAREZ

(He grabs her quickly by both arms)

Where's Maria?

CONCHITA

Ay! You are hurting me!

OLIVAREZ

I'll hurt you a damn sight more if you don't tell me where Maria is!

CONCHITA

(Pulling away)

She's gone!

OLIVAREZ

Gone? Where?

CONCHITA

To the Estados Unidos!

OLIVAREZ

When? Which way? Quick?

CONCHITA

Her father and mother took her off an hour ago - the train has gone.

OLIVAREZ

We'll see about that. ~~Quick~~ Perez, start the car. We'll get to the station damn quick!

COOBY LIA

(Telling the story)

At home you always think only of the child himself. Have you
not now a moment to spare for poor little Conchita?

OLIVIER

(He grabs her delicately by both arms)

There's Maria?

CONCHITA

Yes! You are hurting me!

OLIVIER

Will you a damn right now if you don't tell me where

she is!

CONCHITA

(Falling away)

She's gone!

OLIVIER

Where? Where?

CONCHITA

To the Sultan's Palace!

OLIVIER

What? Which way? Which?

CONCHITA

Her father and mother took her off an hour ago - the train has

gone.

OLIVIER

Wait! see about that. Quick! Look, start the car. We'll get

to the station down below!

CONCHITA

(Hanging onto him)

You'd leave me?

PEREZ

(Has looked at his watch)

Mi General, the first train out was due to leave ten minutes ago. I gave the order for you - and heard the whistle as we came here --

OLIVAREZ

Caramba! Cristo!

(He starts pacing up and down)

That old fox Patterson thinks he can have his own way, does he? ~~I didn't think he could get away so quickly. You can't tell about these Gringos. They're tricky! Malditos sean!~~ But we'll out-trick them! Alvarado, all trains North have to stop at Tacuba for water. Order out two squadrons. I know a short cut - - We'll ride like hell and we'll take pretty Maria off the train. ~~Her father and mother can go to the devil!~~ Come!

CONCHITA

No - no, Mi General, don't leave me!

ALVARADO

Mi General I hesitate to make a suggestion - but --

OLIVAREZ

No suggestions. Quick. We've no time to lose.

(He gets into doorway)

COMMITTEE

(Hanging onto him)

Don't leave me!

THREE

(She looked at his watch)

At last, the first train out was due to leave for minutes ago. I gave the order for you - and heard the whistle as we came here --

OLIVER

Oliver!

(He started passing up and down)

That old fox Patterson thinks he can have his own way, does he? I might think he ought not to be so selfish. But can't I get some more things? They're lovely! Whittier's novel! But we'll see - first thing! Oliver, all these books have to stop at Parker for review. Order out two more. I have a short one - I'll ride like hell and wait till I can get it off the train. Her father and mother can go to the devil!

OLIVER

No, no, Mr. General, don't leave me!

OLIVER

At last, I hesitate to make a suggestion - but --

OLIVER

No suggestion. Quick. We've no time to lose.

(He gets into doorway)

ALVARADO

But Mi General, I must suggest that you consider the consequences!

OLIVAREZ

Consequences?

ALVARADO

Yes.

Olivarez

What consequences?

ALVARADO

War with the Estatus Unidos.

OLIVAREZ

Dios Mio! Why should there be war with the Estatus Unidos because I take Maria off the train?

ALVARADO

But Mi General, you know how it is with the Gringos - you can kill their men and they only watch and wait but abduct one of their women and you would have their soldiers over the border in twenty-four hours!

PEREZ

Alvarado is right, Mi General.

OLIVAREZ

Caremba! Why? Why? They would be on our soil. I am boss here now - Trevino and I.

PEREZ

But Mi General - they are citizens of the Estatus Unidos.

ALVARADO

But Mr. General, I must suggest that you consider the conse-

quences!

OLIVARES

Consequently?

ALVARADO

Yes.

OLIVARES

What consequences?

ALVARADO

Not with the Federal Union.

OLIVARES

Once more! Why should there be war with the Federal Union?

Because I take issue with all the things

ALVARADO

But Mr. General, you know how it is with the Orizaba - you can

kill their men and they only watch and wait but about one of

their women and you would have their soldiers over the border

in twenty-four hours!

FINIS

Alvarado is right, Mr. General.

OLIVARES

Remember! Why? They would be on our soil. I am sure

have now - Trevino and I.

FINIS

But Mr. General - they are citizens of the Federal Union.

ALVARADO

And when we have only just achieved victory. I would suggest that to have trouble with the Estados Unidos might prove fatal -

OLIVAREZ

Jesus, Jose y Maria! Those devil Gringos! They would be sure to interfere at the wrong time. Dios Mio if I had a few thousand trained men and some more guns I could whip the whole lot of them and go up and take Texas and California back again! Oh, but my poor little white-faced Maria with her heart bleeding for me - she is dragged off -

CONCHITA

She went happily enough it seemed to me.

OLIVAREZ

(Quickly to her)

She went happily you say? Didn't she leave any message for me?

CONCHITA

(Shakes her head)

Her father told her you had a woman living with you in the hills and she - the little prude, immediately would have none of you. They are a cold, unforgiving race - the Americanos - and you are well out of it - with Maria gone.

(Up to him)

And Mi General -- you deserve a better fate. You should have someone who can understand you, someone who has the fire and courage of our race!

REMARKS

and when we have only just achieved victory. I would suggest
that to have trouble with the Russian Union might prove fatal.

REMARKS

James, John & Harry! How devil dragon! They want to
take to the water at the wrong time. After this if I had a few
thousand trained men and some more guns I could whip the whole
lot of them and go up and take Texas and California back again.
Oh, but my poor little white-faced birds with their heart bleeding

for me - who is to die?

REMARKS

The world is really enough it seems to me.

REMARKS

(Slightly to him)

He would hardly say that, wouldn't she leave any message for me?

REMARKS

(Slightly to her)

Her father told her you had a woman living with you in the hills

and she - the little girl, immediately would have none of you.

They are a cold, unfeeling race - the Americans - and you

are well out of it - with their guns.

(Up to him)

And in General - you deserve a better fate. You should have

known the man underneath you, someone who has the fire and

contrast of our race!

PEREZ

Safer to stick to our own women Mi General, You can manage them better.

OLIVAREZ

Ah, but you didn't know the little Maria - she is half Spanish - she has the best of both races in her - she is timid and brave all at once. She would have looked damned fine at the head of my table! She would impress even an ambassador!

CONCHITA

My poor friend -- Let Conchita comfort you in this hour of trial. Let me be as a mother to you. You are tired after so much excitement and so much fighting. Stay here with Conchita and let her soothe you and --

OLIVAREZ

(With his head in his hands)

My little Maria. I would have taken good care of her. She would have been proud of me!

PEREZ

Maybe she will come back Mi General You never can tell about women --

OLIVAREZ

No, now she will marry a nice little Gringo automobile salesman and live in peace and respectability! Bah! The Gringos must always have safety for their women! Patterson thinks I wasn't good enough for her -- I - a General! Carembo!

Salter to stick to our own woman, General. You can manage them better.

Oh, but you didn't know the little Maria - she is half Spanish - she has the best of both races in her - she is kind and brave all at once. She would have looked damned fine at the head of my regiment. She would inspire even an ambassador!

My poor friend -- let General's comfort you in this hour of trial. Let me be as a mother to you. You are tired after so much excitement and so much fighting. Stay here with General and let her soothe you and --

(With his hand in his hands)
My little Maria. I would have taken good care of her. She would have been proud of me!

And she will come back to General. You never can tell about women --

Oh, now she will carry a nice little Grinn automobile with her and Jive in horse and responsibility! Hah! The Grinnos will always have plenty for their women! Let's see, I think I would be good enough for her -- I -- a General! General!

ALVARADO

(With his hand on Olivarez)

Olivarez, old friend, don't grieve over one woman when the city is full of them. This girl, half Gringo, would only have been a nuisance to you.

CONCHITA

Yes, and I, Conchita, am here.

(The two officers start to door and light cigarettes)

CONCHITA

(Whispers)

~~Let me - Why can't I do as well?~~

(Embarrassed)

Remember - last night if there had not been the attack?
Remember I promised? Why not tonight? A Martinez can be patient and forgiving.

OLIVAREZ

(Half laughs sarcastically and looks her all over)

So? I can have Conchita in recompense for Maria?

(He laughs loudly)

CONCHITA

(With only one thought)

Send them away - You'll see - I can make up to you for your loss - just give me a chance.

OLIVAREZ

So black haired Conchita wants a chance?

ALICE

(With her hand on Alice's arm)

However, old friend, don't give over and down like this
in front of them. This girl, half Negro, would only have been
a nuisance to you.

BOBBY

Yes, and I, Corcoran, am here.

(The two officers start to door and light signs
off)

BOBBY

(Whisper)

Yes - my name is Bob.

(Whisper)

Remember - last night it was not from the street
because I promised my mother that I wouldn't go in
without my father.

ALICE

(Half laughs nervously and looks her all over)

Yes - I can give Corcoran in response for that.

(The women laugh)

BOBBY

(With only one breath)

Good then say - I'll see - I can take up to you for your
name - just give me a chance.

ALICE

No black haired Corcoran with a chance

BOBBY

Remember - last night it was not from the street

OLIVAREZ

(He laughs boisterously and walks around the room)

CONCHITA

(Follows him - whispers)

Send them away --

OLIVAREZ

Dios Mio, but do you honestly deserve a chance, amico?

(Still laughing and striding about)

CONCHITA

Think what it would mean to have the Martinez with you on your side in the army. There will be other Generals fighting for power. I can see to it that my brothers --

OLIVAREZ

Oh ho! Now I'm being bribed. Caremba! I don't know but that there isn't something in what you say. The Martinez are powerful. A friend in the camp of the enemy would be useful!

(He looks her all over again - leans over to her)

How old are you Conchita? I am consumed with an overwhelming curiosity.

CONCHITA

(Looking up at him coyly)

Twenty-five, Manuel - just your age - eh?

OLIVAREZ

(Laughs uproariously)

Twenty-five, eh? Twenty-five!

(He strides over to the two men)

SILVER

(The speaker deliberately and calmly states the

room)

CONVICT

(Follows him - whispering)

Send them away --

SILVER

Don't do, but do not necessarily generate a chance, either

(Still in the same and whispering about)

CONVICT

Think what it would mean to have the British with you on

your side in the army. There will be other generals fighting

the power. I can see it is just my brothers --

SILVER

Oh, no! I'm not a British. I don't know but

that British don't want to fight you say. The British

are powerful. A British in the camp of the enemy would be

useful!

(He looks but all over again - James says to him)

How did you come? I am convinced with an overwhelming

majority.

CONVICT

(Looking up at him softly)

Twenty-five, hundred - just your age - 25

SILVER

(Hands vigorously)

Twenty-five, and twenty-five

(He smiles over to the two men)

OLIVAREZ

Amicos - I am sorry that there is to be no celebrating here after all and no wedding! But -

(He gives a look at Conchita and then winks his eye.

They all look knowingly and smile. Speaking louder - including her)

And now Senorita Martinez will excuse you ~~I feel sure if the~~ ^{you} ~~Lieutenants feel they must go to take charge of their affairs.~~
Of course if you had no duties to attend to and could stay on - Senorita Martinez would be more than delighted!

(He winks)

CONCHITA

Any friends of the General? --

OLIVAREZ

See Amicos - you must call on the Senorita in her own home sometime.

(Winks)

Only twenty-five! *(40 then)*

(Points and whispers)

(Yes,) call again. Some other time when you can stay longer!

ALVARADO

(Bows)

With all the pleasure in the world, Senorita, Adios, Adios, mi General.

PEREZ

(Bows)

Adios Senorita. Our felicitations!

(They laugh among themselves)

OLIVER

William - I am sorry that there is to be no celebrating here

after all and so wedding! But -

(He gives a look at Josephine and then looks at her)

They all look knowingly and smile. Speaking louder -

(Including her)

And now Josephine's children will excuse you I feel sure if the

children are not they will go to the change of their attire.

It seems if you had no desire to stand to and could stay on -

Josephine's children would be very much delighted!

(He looks at her)

JOSEPHINE

My friends of the household -

OLIVER

My friends - you must call on the household in her own house

JOSEPHINE

(Whisper)

Oh! twenty-five!

(Pointing and whispering)

Now call again. Some other time when you can stay longer!

JOSEPHINE

(Bows)

With all the pleasure in the world, goodbye, adieu, adieu!

JOSEPHINE

JOSEPHINE

(Bows)

Adieu, Josephine. Our farewell!

(They laugh and whisper)

OLIVAREZ

(To them)

I'll join you later.

PEREZ

Later? Perhaps?

ALVARADO

Perhaps, later, eh? Adios!

(They go off down the steps laughing)

(Olivarez watches them out then gives a look at Conchita - which she gets - realizes it's portent and begins to feel a little scared. With a grand gesture Olivarez locks the door and with a grin at Conchita puts key in his pocket. She, still more frightened, shrinks)

OLIVAREZ

(Looking at her appraisingly)

So! For the lovely innocent Maria - I am to have -- twenty-five! ! Ha!

(He strides across to her)

First, I want the truth! How old are you Conchita?

(He grabs hold of both her arms)

Your age - to a day? No more lies!

CONCHITA

(Frightened but trying not to show it)

Oh Manuel. Would it make any difference if, say I had reached twenty-nine - the year of discretion?

CHAPTER

(To be read)

1.11 John for John.

John

John for John

CHAPTER

John for John, John for John

(John for John, John for John)

(John for John, John for John)

John for John - which

John for John - which

John for John - which

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John for John - which

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John for John - which

CHAPTER

(John for John, John for John)

John for John - I am to have

John for John - I am to have

(John for John, John for John)

John for John - I am to have

(John for John, John for John)

John for John - I am to have

CHAPTER

(John for John, John for John)

John for John - I am to have

John for John - I am to have

OLIVAREZ

(Shaking her slightly)

Twenty-nine, bah? You're thirty and more. Come - confess!
I want for once to hear you speak the truth.

CONCHITA

I would always tell the truth to you, Manuel! Only a woman
gets used to lying about her age. I am thirty --

(Pause)

two --

OLIVAREZ

(Shaking her again)

More than that. I can tell by the look in your eye. Come now?

CONCHITA

Well, then -- thirty-five.

OLIVAREZ.

(Releases her)

Thirty-seven if you are a day!

(He moves away)

And my little Maria's heart is beating in time with wheels
carrying her North - North! Oh, Dios Mio! But - Carai!
This won't do! I must forget all about Maria and you are
going to help me - aren't you, Conchita? The haughty Colonel
Martinez's sister! Splendid!

(He looks at her - she is still frightened)

Come - come - cheer up, Conchita! Thirty-five isn't such a
bad age. A woman is still in her prime. Come - I believe you
are only thirty-five. I am glad it is no more! But I am
satisfied, Que Bueno! Now, let me see --

OLIVER

(Speaking her name)

Twenty-nine, thirty, thirty-five and more, Come - come!

I want for once to hear you speak the truth.

CONSTANCE

I would always tell the truth to you, Hannah! Only a woman

is not used to lying about her age. I am thirty --

(Pause)

OLIVER

(Speaking her name)

Now then, Oliver, I can tell by the look in your eye, Come now!

CONSTANCE

Well, then -- thirty-five.

OLIVER

(Relieved)

Thirty-five, it you are a day!

(He moves away)

And my little sister's heart is beating in time with yours

carrying her forth - North, Oh, dear God! But - Constance!

Take care! I must forget all about her and you are

going to help me - aren't you, Constance? The beautiful

Constance's sister! Splendid!

(He looks at her - she is still frightened)

Come - come - cheer up, Constance! Thirty-five isn't much a

bad age. A woman is still in her prime. Come - I believe you

are only thirty-five. I am glad it is so now! But I am

entitled, are I not? Now, let me see --

OLIVAREZ

(He looks around the room then crosses to close the blinds)

Yes, you were right - I am tired. All this hot sunlight burns my eyes. It will be more soothing with the shutters closed. Bien!

(He has closed both - leaving room in half light)

More like it was when my Maria was here. Ah, I can pretend she still is! No, Caremba, I must forget the white lily!

(He stretches himself and yawns. He unbuttons his coat)

This isn't bad for a makeshift. Eh? Fits pretty well! I'm to have a new uniform by the end of the week - gold lace - more buttons, and it will fit me like a glove. Then watch the Senoritas!

(He sits)

Yes, I am more tired than I thought and after so much fighting it is quiet and peaceful here. Come, Conchita, big dark-eyed beauty, come - take off my boots!

(There is a pause as she is startled from her coma of fright)

CONCHITA

Your boots?

OLIVAREZ

Yes. Take them off, of course! All our hill women wait on their men and if you are with me - you must do as we do in the hills. Just - give them a jerk -- it is not hard!

*Ed
from
H.*

OLIVIER

(The door opens the room then closes to leave the

Olivia)

Yes, you were right - I am tired. All this hot sunlight

burns my eyes. It will be more soothing with the windows

closed. Thank

(He has closed both - leaving room in half light)

There like it was when my hands were bare. Ah, I can pretend she

will let me, because, I must forget the white light

(He stretches himself and yawns. He stretches his

body)

It's late for a husband. But this pretty well

he has a new uniform by the end of the week - gold lace - new

uniform, and it will fit me like a glove. Then when the

conscience!

(He sighs)

Yes, I am more tired than I thought and after so much light

and it is quiet and peaceful here. Come, Constance, big dark-

and pretty, come - take off my boots!

(There is a pause as she is startled from her seat

of light)

CONSTANCE

Your boots?

OLIVIER

Yes. Take them off, of course! All our little women with on

little men and if you can with me - you must do as well as the

little. Just - give them a jerk -- it is not hard!

OLIVAREZ.

(She turns away indignant)

Come! What am I a General for if I can not have a Martinez take off my boots! Quick! I won't be kept waiting! I will be obeyed, Conchita!

(She is too frightened not to go to him and jerks first one boot and then another)

(He starts to laugh and finally she is on her knees)

Ah ha! A Martinez on her knees to a Olivarez! Splendid!

And besides - am I not going to recompense you ---!

(She gets up leaning against the table looking away from him. He watches her)

Ave Maria Purissima! What is it? What's the matter? Can't you smile any more? Eh? You look like a funeral!

CONCHITA

(Uncomfortably)

It is nothing - Senor!

OLIVAREZ

"Senor"? A minute ago I was your Manuel! - - I know! You want to be wooed all over again? You want me to say pretty things to you! Very well - only I am tired, and in the hills we don't waste time with words when there are other ways of enjoying ourselves!

(He gets up and stands by her - leaning against the table, also)

Ah, bella Conchita, with the lovely dark cream arms.

OLIVER

(She turns away indignantly)

Conor! What am I a General for? If I can not have a partner
take off my boots! Oh! I won't be kept waiting! I will

be seated, General!

(She is too frightened not to go

to him and jerk him out of

and then another)

(He starts to jump and finally she is on her knees)

Oh! a partner on her knees to a General! Splendid!

and besides - as I am going to retire you --!

(She gets up leaning against the table looking very

from him. He notices her)

Two hours! That is it! That is the matter! Don't

you make any more! You look like a General!

CONOR

(Unconsciously)

It is nothing - General!

OLIVER

"General" a minute ago I was your General! - I know! You

want to be seated all over again! You want me to say pretty

things to you! Very well - only I am tired, and in the hills

we don't waste time with words when there are other ways of

enjoying ourselves!

(He gets up and stands by her - leaning against the

table, also)

Oh, Bella Conchita, with the lovely dark cream hair.

OLIVAREZ

(He takes her arm and starts to kiss it - she moves away more terrified than ever)

I see now! Conchita is playing with me, holding off her smiles and kisses, but,

(Closer still)

I know my big black-eyed Encantito can kiss and return my embraces, eh? Hasn't she as much as told me so! Ah, belle Conchita, "with all the fire and the courage of a Martinez", you cannot hold me off any longer!

(He puts his arms around her. She stiffens and turns her head away. He turns her head around - leans over to kiss her and sees the frightened look in her eyes. He immediately pushes her away from him and starts to laugh and laughs loudly)

So? Caremba! So that's how it is! Cristo!

(She moves over to arch - clinging to it)

OLIVAREZ

Don't worry, Senorita. I won't touch you! Manuel Olivarez was never one to frighten old women and children!

(He sits down laughing and starts putting on his boots)

"All the fire and courage of a Martinez". Carai! No wonder the family has died out.

(Laughs more)

CHAPTER

(He takes her arm and starts to kiss it - she
kisses away from him startled then ever)
I see now! Scientific in playing with me, holding off her kisses

(Glossy still)

I know my big black-eyed scientific can kiss and return it
undoubtedly, she says to me as much as told me to do, believe
you cannot believe me off my head!
He puts his arm around her. The stillness and
leaves her head away. He turns her head around -
leaves over to him and sees the frightened look
in her eyes. He immediately kisses her away from
him and starts to laugh and jump (laugh)
God, Caroline! It's that's how it is! (Glossy)
(The waves over to each - clinging

in it)

CHAPTER

Don't worry, Caroline. I won't touch you! (Glossy still)
was never one to frighten old women and children!
He sits down laughing and starts putting on his

(Glossy)

"All the time and company of a Harlequin." (Glossy) No wonder
the family has stood out.
(Laughs more)

OLIVAREZ

It's nothing to me - I can find plenty willing and ready!
What's a Martinez, after all?

(He starts to go, still chuckling)

Never fear, Senorita Conchita - I am going -

(He unlocks door)

I go at once to send to you a body-guard of eunuchs!

(He bows low - mockingly)

Adios! Adios!

(He goes down steps laughing)

The courage and fire of the Martinez! Ha! The rashest blood
of old Spain! Ha! Ha!

CONCHITA

(Gradually comes to herself - realizes he is gone -
puts her hand to her lips then runs to door with
arms outstretched calling)

CONCHITA

Manuel! Manuel!

(His laughter is heard in the distance)

(She breaks down sobbing and clings to the door)

CURTAIN.

III-38

OLIVIER

It's nothing to me - I can find plenty willing and ready!

What's a hardship, after all?

(He starts to go, still chuckling)

Never fear, Generala Gonzalez - I am going -

(He unlocks door)

I go at once to send to you a body-guard of gentlemen!

(He bows low - mockingly)

Adios! Adios!

(He goes down steps laughing)

The courage and fire of the Martinez! He! The vibrant blood

of his Spain! He! He!

CONCHITA

(Gradually comes to herself - realizes he is gone -

puts her hand to her lips then runs to door with

arms outstretched calling)

CONCHITA

Manuel! Manuel!

(His laughter is heard in the distance)

(She breaks down sobbing and clings to the door)

CURTAIN

ACT II

PLACE:

Same as Act I.

TIME:

Four days later.

When Curtain rises, the stage is in half light, as in Act I. The shutters are closed and most of the light comes in from the arches that lead to the balcony.

MARIA is walking around the room restlessly. AMILIA is putting away dinner in the sideboard.

AMILIA

I'm only telling you what your father said. Before he went out, he asked me to speak to you. Dios mio, he should have been back before now.

(Over to MARIA)

As he said - this man comes of rough hill folk and he's not much more than a bandit.

MARIA

But, Madre mia - I don't see why you say that when -

ACT II

Scene as Act I.

Four days later.

When curtain rises, the stage is in half light, as in Act I. The audience are placed and some of the light comes in from the boxes that lead to the balcony. MARIA is waiting around the room restlessly. ANITA is putting away dinner in the sideboard.

MARIA
I'm only waiting for what your father said. Before he went out, he asked me to speak to you. Like this, he said, have been back before now.
(over to ANITA)

ANITA
As he said - this man could be rough with folk and he's not a good man at all.

MARIA
I'm waiting now - I don't see why you say that when -

AMILIA

And you have only known him for these four days.

MARIA

But, Madre mia -

AMILIA

And you must be more careful, Maria.

MARIA

But what have I done?

AMILIA

Well, you certainly don't know him well enough to let him hold your hand.

MARIA

Who said I let him hold my hand - Did father?

AMILIA

No - and I didn't tell your father, but Conchita -

MARIA

I might know it would be Conchita!

AMILIA

Well, she was only trying to -

MARIA

Make trouble! You know yourself how she imagines things that never happen.

AMILIA

Then you never have let the Captain hold your hand?

MARIA

No - he has never tried to.

ANITA

and you have only known him for these four days.

MARIA

But, Maria -

ANITA

and you must be more careful, Maria.

MARIA

But what have I done?

ANITA

Well, you certainly don't know him well enough to let

him hold your hand.

MARIA

Who said I let him hold my hand - Did I?

ANITA

No - and I didn't tell your father, but I thought -

MARIA

I thought it would be foolish!

ANITA

Well, she was only trying to -

MARIA

What trouble! You know yourself how she imagines

things that never happen.

ANITA

Now you never have let the Captain hold your hand.

MARIA

No - he has never held it.

AMILIA

Well, I'm glad of that. But you must realize, Maria, that this man is not at all the kind of man you would meet socially. He means well enough but it is indeed unfortunate he has had to stay here so long. Of course it couldn't be helped and we must all be polite to him - but that is all.

(Change)

Now, did you say those magazines had been put away in the hall closet?

MARIA

Yes, Madre mia.

(Starts out right)

AMILIA

I want the picture of that dress we both liked. But -

(as she goes)

I can hardly put my mind on anything with your father out in the streets alone.

(She exits right)

(MARIA sits in a chair by the balcony and starts to embroider. After a pause

OLIVAREZ strolls in from left, smoking a cigarette)

OLIVAREZ

Your father not back yet, eh, Senorita?

MARIA

No, Senor Capitán - he has been long. (She sighs heavily)

ANITA

Well, I'm glad of that. But you must realize, Maria, that this man is not at all the kind of man you would meet socially. He means well enough but it is indeed unfortunate he has had to stay here so long. Of course it couldn't be helped and we must all be polite to him - but that is all.

(Change)

Now, did you say those magazines had been put away in the hall closet?

MARIA

Yes, Madam.

(Starts out right)

ANITA

I want the picture of that dress we both liked. But -

(as she goes)

I can hardly get my mind on anything with your father out in the street alone.

(She exits right)

MARIA sits in a chair by the balcony and

starts to sob.

OLIVIER strolls in from left, smoking a

cigar

Your father has been out, eh, Constanza?

MARIA

Yes, Constanza - he has been long. (She sighs heavily)

OLIVAREZ

(Coming closer to her)

Ah, Senorita, what a picture - the sunlight on your hair - like a Madonna with a halo!

MARIA

You must not say such a thing, Senor.

OLIVAREZ

And why not, when it is true?

(He takes her hand. She quietly
slips it away)

Caremba! Are you always like this?

MARIA

Like what?

OLIVAREZ

You can't ^{just} really have no feelings! ^{at all!} You must either hate me a little - or like me - a - lot, eh?

MARIA

We are taught in the convent never to show our feelings - ~~if possible.~~

OLIVAREZ

Always the convent! You, a healthy, beautiful girl, cannot expect all your life to think only of the convent. ^{Why are} ~~Come, what makes~~ you so bewitched by the place?

MARIA

I love the ways there - and I feel so safe.

OLIVAREZ

Safe?! Carai! - What's the good of being safe @ if you aren't free? ~~Wait!~~ ~~Bah!~~ - Learn to be free - the way we are in the hills!

OLIVIER

(Coming closer to her)
Oh, remember, wait a minute - the sunlight on your
hair - like a rainbow with a halo!
You must not say such a thing, Senor.

OLIVIER

And why not, when it is true?
(He takes her hand. She quietly
clips it away)
Remember, are you always like this?

OLIVIER

Like what?
Remember, I have no feelings! You must either have
no feelings - or, if you have, you must either have
no feelings in the convent never to show our feelings -

OLIVIER

Always the convent! You are a convent girl.
Remember, all your life you must think only of the convent.
Remember, you are no different from the others.

OLIVIER

I have the same there - and I feel a little
different from the others.
Remember, that's the end of being safe. If you
remember, that's the end of being safe - the way
we are in the world!

MARIA

Those hard, ~~read~~ hills I see of there? They look so cruel.

Sonora OLIVAREZ

They are not cruel, - they are soft-breasted like a woman! And they protect me like a mother! Only last week when I was followed by some Mendozistas, it was my hills that saved me!

MARIA

How - ? ~~Tell me!~~

OLIVAREZ

I was riding alone - I am a fool to ride without my bodyguard but I am coming from my -

(catches himself in time)

from a private - even a secret conference! Buena! *When*

I see five men in the distance. *But* In the desert everything looks nearer than it is. I ~~know that they start after~~

Bravos me. I am carefree - my heart is light because - well, no matter - *any how* I do not think much about them! When they

are nearly upon me they start shooting. I turn in my saddle and with one shot kill two - two at once! I

am the best shot in Sonora! I shoot again - and a third rolls off his horse. *But* The other two have faster horses

and are gaining on me - At last I ^o came to my hills and I turn straight into them. There, I am safe *among* the brush! *For* I know every canyon and every rock like an old

friend! Under cover of the dusk, Chiquita and I -

(quickly)

she Chiquita is my horse - we find our way home, and I am

CHAPTER

Those hard, cold hills - they look so cruel.
They are not cruel - they are only dressed like a
woman! And they protect me like a woman! Only last week
when I was followed by some desperadoes, it was my hills
that saved me!

CHAPTER

Now - I am a fool to ride without my

CHAPTER

I was riding alone - I am a fool to ride without my
bodyguard but I am coming from my -
(caught himself in time)
from a private - even a secret conference! I was
I see this man in the distance. In the desert everything
looks nearer than it is. I saw that they were after
me - I am a fool to ride without my bodyguard - well,
no matter - I do not think much about them! When they
are nearly upon me they start shooting. I turn in my
saddle with one shot kill two - two no good! I
am the fastest in the desert! I shoot again - and a third
shot kills the horse. The other two have faster horses
and are faster men - at last I come to my hills and
I am safe! I am safe! I am safe!
I am safe! I am safe! I am safe!
I am safe! I am safe! I am safe!
I am safe! I am safe! I am safe!

(cont.)

sitting in my own hacienda - drinking my own wine
and laughing at the disappointment of those two fools!

MARIA

Oh - but suppose they had caught you!

OLIVAREZ

They never catch Olivarez!

MARIA

It must be wonderful never to be afraid!

OLIVAREZ

Why be afraid as long as you have a gun!

MARIA

And you really do not mind killing, Senor Captain?

OLIVAREZ

No - I do not mind when it is necessary, why should I?

MARIA

Because you do not mind killing, is that why you brought
your men down from the hills to join the revolution?

OLIVAREZ

No. I want a better price for my crops. Mendoza has run
his government only for the cities. We Rancheros need
some say in ^{the} government. If I get a better price for ^{my}
crops I can pay my peons more. ~~I pay them better than~~
~~most now - that is why they fight so well - but I want~~
~~to pay them more.~~ I like to see them happy with large
families - all like my children! Of course, sometimes
they are bad children and I have to punish them - even
kill one once in a while.

(cont.)

sitting in my own backside - drinking my own wine
and laughing at the disappointment of those two fools!

MARIA

Oh - but suppose they had caught you!

OLIVIER

They never catch Olivier!

MARIA

It must be wonderful never to be tried!

OLIVIER

Why be afraid as long as you have a gun!

MARIA

And you really do not mind killing, Senior Captain?

OLIVIER

No, I do not mind when it is necessary, why should I?

Because you do not mind killing, is that why you brought

your men down from the hills to join the revolution?

OLIVIER

No, I want a better price for my crops, Monsieur has put

his government only for the others. We farmers need

some way in the government. If I get a better price for

crops I can pay my debts more. I get the best price

now - but in my time it was well - not I want

to be a soldier, I like to see the army with flags

and music - all the people of the world, of course, everyone

that are not killed and I have to punish them - even

kill one once in a while.

MARIA

Always killing --

OLIVAREZ

If I do not show them I am not afraid to kill they will not, obey me. But if I pay them plenty - they are happy. Yes, we need a better price for our crops and Trevino has promised it to us -- Also -

(half whispers)

he has promised to make me a general. How's that, eh? General Olivarez! No one can look down on me then! Eh? And I will have my own palacio here in the city - where I will give banquets and balls

(closer to her)

-, and then I'll need a wife, eh? One that knows how to act in a palacio. A hill woman won't do!

(He looks at her intently)

Will I find such a one when I am a general? What do you think, Senorita?

(She shifts her gaze)

MARIA

I do not know, Senor.

OLIVAREZ

But why not? A general can have what he wants, eh? That's what a man likes! Already I can do as I like in my hills - that is free land! And the desert below - that is free land - no one wanted it. I took water to it from the hills and now it gives me acres of corn and cotton. It is a fruitful desert - everything grow there - except -

lower a
step by
her

why he is
a general.

AMERICA

Always killing...
If I do not show them I am not afraid to kill they will
not obey me. But if I pay them plenty - they are happy.
I will give them a better price for our crops and provisions.
I will give them... - also -

from
1/2 of the
land

he has promised to make me a general. Now's that, eh?
General Oliveros! So one can look down on me then! But
and I will have my own palace here in the city - where
I will give banquets and balls.
I will give them (refuse to pay)
and then I'll send a wife. But one that knows how to
not in a palace. A hill where you'd get
the forces at...
Will I find such a one when I am a general? What do you
think, General?
Yes (she smiles her gaze)

AMERICA

I do not know, General.

OLIVEROS

But why does a general care what he wants, eh? That's
... I like it very much -
... that is free -
... to the state. I have never to let the state
and how it grows on each side of the river. It is a
... - except -

(Going closer to her)

There are no golden lilies on the desert - or in the hills - that is a pity!

(He touches a strand of her hair. She moves slowly)

Do not be afraid, Senorita, (~~I will not come any nearer.~~)

MARIA

I am not afraid, except that you will be seen, Senor.

OLIVAREZ

Ah, gracias! ^{Senorita} Your care for my safety gives me a little hope that your heart is not as cold as you would have it seem, eh? I am learning things about "los Gringos." There deep in your quiet heart, Senorita Maria, you do not dislike me.

MARIA

No, I do not dislike you, Senor Capitan.

OLIVAREZ

But, I want very much that you like me, Senorita. In time, perhaps? Maybe now - even, a little?

MARIA

I do not know --

OLIVAREZ

You Americanas! Jesus, Josa y Maria! You are all alike! The Estados Unidos "waits and watches," and will not know whether it will intervene or not until after the Revolution is over! Caremba! You will not listen to your heart-beats, you Gringos!

From
✓
l

(She sits silently, listening to the music of the guitar. OLIVAREZ turns quickly and watches her a second)

You think of that soldier perhaps? Maybe you listen to your heart-beat for him!

MARIA

No, I was thinking of the warm close walls of the convent -

(Voices are heard, off R. of some people passing in the street)

Listen! Maybe that's father now!

(She runs across to the windows and looks out through shutters)

No - but why doesn't he come?

OLIVAREZ

He will - ^{come} soon now. ~~Have no fears! El Gringo Patterson is safe!~~ ^{no fear!}

MARIA

But how can it take so long?

OLIVAREZ

~~He has had to go to many shops.~~ It takes time to collect nice juicy steaks, and potatoes, and tomatoes, and maybe he has found a pineapple and ripe pears. My mouth waters! And ~~tee,~~ they will be heavy to carry - he cannot run home!

MARIA

I was hungry yesterday - but today I am not hungry. Oh - I would rather not have any food at all than to have father in danger.

*sith
of table*

*light
foot*

(She sits alone, listening to the music)

of the guitar. OLIVIER turns quickly and

listens her a second.

You think of that soldier yesterday? Maybe you listen to

your heart-beat for him!

MARIA

No, I was thinking of the warm close walls of the convent -

(Voices are heard, off R. of

some people passing in the street)

Isn't that your father's house?

(She runs across to the window and

looks out through curtains)

No - but why doesn't he come?

OLIVIER

He will - soon now. Have no fear! - I'll bring him back.

MARIA

MARIA

Let him see he has no right.

OLIVIER

He has no right to say that. It takes time to collect

those joyful echoes, and sometimes, and maybe

he has to wait a long while and give peace. It's worth waiting!

And yes, they will be happy to come - he cannot say that!

MARIA

I was thinking yesterday - but today I am not angry. Oh -

I could rather not have any food at all than to have

A

father in danger.

el
le
p
all

Oliver

OLIVAREZ

I believe you when you say that. If a hill woman said that it would be just words, but you - I believe you mean it - that is why your cold white face warms my heart.

(He comes closer)

There is fire underneath this snow!

(She doesn't move. After a pause)

Why do you tremble - ?

MARIA

I do not know, Senor, unless it is that I am afraid.

OLIVAREZ

Of what, Senorita?

MARIA

Of the fighting, the killing. No food! Father in danger - and -

(She looks at him)

perhaps, other things!

OLIVAREZ

Always fears - Why, why? Don't you know I will not harm you?

MARIA

(Slowly, looking at him)

Yes - I think I do -

(She turns away)

Oh, but soon - soon now even if Father still objects, I shall go into the convent. There I will be safe - always from everything! ~~The walls will be around me - close.~~

OLIVAREZ

It is a coward's act - to run away - and hide.

up to her

right up to her

up the way

OLIVIER

I believe you when you say that. If a bill woman said that it would be just words, but you - I believe you mean it - that is why your cold white face turns up now.

(He comes closer)

There is fire underneath this moon!

(She doesn't move. After a pause)

Why do you breathe - ?

MARIA

I do not know, Genet, unless it is that I am afraid.

OLIVIER

Of what, Genet?

MARIA

Of the lightning, the killing, the look! Father in danger -

and -

(She looks at him)

perhaps, other things!

OLIVIER

Always there - why, what don't you know I will not leave you?

MARIA

(Slowly, looking at him)

Yes - I think I do -

(She turns away)

I, but soon - soon now - even if Father still objects, I

shall go into the convent, where I will be safe - always

from everything! The convent is a refuge.

OLIVIER

It is a coward's act - to run away - to hide.

up the way

MARIA

(Half sobbing)

I know! I know! But I can't help it --

OLIVAREZ

(He takes her by the shoulder and shakes her)

You can help it! You are not a coward at heart. I could take you to my hills and teach you to be afraid of nothing!

(He releases her)

There - the wind when it blows - it roars down the canyon like a wild beast! But you would not be afraid. There - the coyotes and wolves howl all night - and come closer *v closer* as they get hungrier and hungrier. Bandits ~~of all sorts~~ lurk in the narrowest passes - but you would not be afraid! For the sky is wide and the hills are high and you can only die once! So - what matters! And the moonlight shines silver on the desert sands - and -

(comes closer)

you have not lived, if you have not loved!

(CONCHITA comes in from R., humming a song - pointedly interrupting but pretending not to see them. She throws open the shutters on one of the windows)

CONCHITA

Phew! Let's have a little light and air!

MARIA

Conchita - no, no!

CONCHITA

That you, Maria? I am suffocated - three days in this dark house - phew!

L. into dark

KARLA

(Half sobbing)

I know! I know! But I can't help it --

OLIVIERA

(He takes her by the shoulder and shakes her)

Can you help it? You are not a coward at heart. I could take you to my hills and teach you to be afraid of nothing!

(He releases her)

There - the wind when it blows - it tears down the canyon like a wild beast! But you would not be afraid. There - the coyotes and wolves howl all night - and some closer as they get frightened and whisper. Sculls of off-cuts sink in the narrowest pass- es - but you would not be afraid! For the sky is wide and the hills are high and you can only die once! So - what matters! And the moonlight shines silver on the desert sands - and -

(He comes closer)

You have not lived, if you have not loved!

(OLIVIERA comes in from R., humming a

song - passionately, hesitating but pro-

ceeding not to see KARLA. She throws open

the shutters on one of the windows)

OLIVIERA

What! You have a little light and a fire!

(He looks at her, then at the light, then at her)

Conchita - no, no!

OLIVIERA

What you, Conchita? I am frightened - three days in this

dark house - I feel

(She starts to open second window)

MARIA

(Over to her quickly)

No, no! Conchita. Someone might see el Capitan.

CONCHITA

Oh!

(Pointedly)

Is Capitan Olivarez in here? I see!

(Pointedly, as she closes up shutters again)

Of course I had no idea you two were here alone in the dark! Please excuse me for intruding? ~~Pray do? I~~
wouldn't have interrupted for the world, of course, had
~~I known --!~~

(She is bowing and Olivarez bows back)

OLIVAREZ

Who would not ^{excuse} forgive the Senorita always, everything! ^{she}

CONCHITA

Gracias, Senor Capitan!

(Turns)

But Maria - Why doesn't ^{your} father hurry? I am starving!

MARIA

I am so worried about him! I feel I must go out and try to find him.

OLIVAREZ

^{No No!} The streets are no place for you now. He will come.

Set
d. l.

(She starts to open second window)

MARIA

(Over to her quickly)

No, not Conchita. Someone might see of Captain.

CONCHITA

(Pointedly)

In Captain Oliver's in here? I see!

(Pointedly, as she glances up window again)

Of course I had no idea you two were here alone in the

back! Please excuse me for intruding. I

wouldn't have interfered for the world, of course, had

(She is looking and Oliver now a back)

CONCHITA

who would not forgive the Senator's wife, everything!

CONCHITA

Grease, Snow-Liquid!

(Turns)

But Maria - you've been talking! I am starving!

MARIA

I am so worried about this! I feel I must go out and

try to find him.

CONCHITA

The stove is no place for you now. Wait if you

CONCHITA

(To Olivarez)

And what, pray, has become of your men and the other rebels?
You have said they would take the city every day for the
last four days and that we would be eating turkey by now.
Bah!

*Sub
from
L*

(Turns)

If your father only brings some fresh eggs I will be able
to bear another day.

OLIVAREZ

As I have told you, our troops are ^{still} ~~still~~ waiting for the
big guns from the Border. [It has taken longer than we
expected, to be sure, but] we must ~~all~~ have patience - we
cannot afford a bloody battle.

CONCHITA

You would stop for a little bloodshed when women and
children are starving? Oh, I am amazed that men are such
brutes! But what can you expect! And the Estados Unidos!
Why does it not intervene - why can't it come to the
rescue of starving women - and children?

OLIVAREZ

(He looks at MARIA)

The Americans are making up their minds!

CONCHITA

Oh - why doesn't somebody do something! First I am attached -
now I am besieged!

CONCHITA

(To Oliver)

And what, pray, has become of your men and the other rebels?

You have said they would take the city every day for the

last four days and that we would be eating turkey by now.

Well

(TURNS)

If your father only brings some fresh eggs I will be able

to bear another day.

OLIVER

As I have told you, our troops are still waiting for the

big guns from the Border. [He has taken longer than we

expected to be sure, but we must not have patience - we

cannot afford a bloody battle.

CONCHITA

You would stop for a little while when women and

children are starving? Oh, I am sure that men are such

brutes! But what can you expect! And the Russian Embassy!

Why does it not intervene - why can't it come to the

rescue of starving women - and children?

OLIVER

(He looks at MARIA)

The Americans are making up their minds!

CONCHITA

Oh - why doesn't somebody do something! For if I am attacked -

now I am besieged!

MARIA

Hush, Conchita! I think I hear --

(She starts to door)

JUAN

(Calls, offstage, from patio)

Hsst! - Senorita - Hsst!

MARIA

It's Juan! I'll have to go! He came up once. He might see the Capitán!

(She runs across quickly to balcony and disappears)

CONCHITA

Maria is clever; she makes good use of the Revolution.

OLIVAREZ

How is that?

CONCHITA

Juan - in the patio - and -

(She gives him a look)

OLIVAREZ

Yes? *and*

CONCHITA

Well, of course - I think her family should know about Juan - at least! -

(Another look at him)

It may be none of my business - but -

OLIVAREZ

But ?

MARIA

Thank, Comrade! I think I hear --

(She starts to door)

JUAN

(Gallo, offstage, from patio)

Heard! - Comrade - Heard!

MARIA

It's Juan! I'll have to go! He came up once. He

might see the Captain!

(She runs across quickly to balcony)

and change etc)

CARMELA

Maria is over; she's been good use for the Revolution.

OLIVIER

How is that?

OLIVIER

There - in the patio - and -

(She gives him a look)

OLIVIER

Yes, yes

OLIVIER

Well, of course - I think her family should know about

them - at least!

(Another look at him)

It may be none of my business - but -

OLIVIER

But yes

CONCHITA

Well - the way that girl carries on!

(He is amused)

Of course - I know such a child as Maria can not possibly interest a man of the world like you, Senor -

(They both watch each other)

You must find, shall we say - consolation, in women of more, shall we say, experience? -

OLIVAREZ

Such as, shall we say, you, Senorita?

(Chari W. W.)

CONCHITA

(Distinctly pleased)

Well - I might admit to more experience than Maria - but I do not see how - the Capitan could know -

OLIVAREZ

No - to my sorrow - I do not know. I can only imagine!

(Sarcastically; but without her realizing)

well
(Ah, well, I can imagine what consolation the Senorita Martinez would be to any man!

CONCHITA

(Coily)

If women could only believe what men say!

OLIVAREZ

And why not? Here I have been eating my heart out day after day and the Senorita Conchita has only turned a cold shoulder to the poor hill man. Is it any wonder I turn to Maria!

CONCHITA

Well - the way that girl carries out

(He is amused)

Of course - I know much a child as Maria as most possibly

interest a man of the world like you, Conchita -

(They both watch each other)

You must find, shall we say - consolation, in women of

more, shall we say, experience?

OLIVIER

Such a, shall we say, you, Conchita?

CONCHITA

(Reluctantly pleased)

Well - I might admit to more experience than Maria - but

I do not see how - the Captain could know -

OLIVIER

No - to my regret - I do not know. I can only imagine!

(Indignantly; but without any feeling)

Oh, well, I can imagine that consolation the Conchita

Conchita would be to my mind!

CONCHITA

(Crying)

It seems could only believe what you say!

OLIVIER

and why not? Have I have been eating my heart out day

after day and the Conchita Conchita has only turned a

cold shoulder to the poor little man. Is it any wonder I

turn to Maria!

CONCHITA

But, Capitan, suppose I should tell you that I am not,
after all, as indifferent as I may seem?

OLIVAREZ

No - ? (Amused)

CONCHITA

No - We Martinez are a proud family. We do not show our
feelings, but underneath - ah, underneath - !

OLIVAREZ

(Playing up to her)

Yes - underneath -- ?

CONCHITA

The fire of the rashest blood of Spain burns in our veins!

OLIVAREZ

How wonderful! And it still burns X after all these years --

(pause)

of experience - ??

CONCHITA

Years?

(She looks at him querulously)

You can crowd much into a short time, Senor. We Martinez
live hard, but not long.

OLIVAREZ

(Mock pity)

Ah, then the Senorita is fearful that soon -- Ah, what a pity!

CONCHITA

but, Conchita, suppose I should tell you that I am not,
after all, as indifferent as I may seem?

OLIVIER

No - I (Amused)

CONCHITA

No - No Karlina was a proud beauty. We do not know our
feelings, but understand - ah, understand - I

OLIVIER

(Playing up to her)

Yes - understand -- I

CONCHITA

The line of the perfect blood of Spain burns in our veins!

OLIVIER

How wonderful! And it still burns - after all these years --

(Pause)

of excitement - 21

CONCHITA

Yes?

(She looks at him curiously)

Now can you tell me into a short time, Conchita, we Karlina
Mrs. Karlina, not long.

OLIVIER

(Mock ally)

Ah, then the Karlina is fearful that soon -- ah, what a pity!

CONCHITA

No, no! Not so soon as all that, I mean we do not live to be seventy or eighty. As for me - being a woman of the world - I may seem mature for my years. But when one is still in their twenties, one is still a girl, is one not - Senor?

OLIVAREZ

(Mockingly)

Ciertamente! Still a girl, Senorita!

(He bows)

CONCHITA

You know, Senor Capitan, although I have known men - many men - I have never before met one of your daring, dashing bandits from the hills!

(She giggles)

OLIVAREZ

So?

(Playing up to her)

And now that you have met a ^{daring, dashing bandit} wild, ~~bad~~ man from the ^{hills} Sierras?

CONCHITA

(Titters, embarrassed)

I - that is, you aren't at all what I expected. You really act like a gentleman!

OLIVAREZ

Indeed - you flatter me!

CONCHITA

(Sidling up to him)

And you know, Senor, I find I am not so unsympathetic
with the Revolution as I thought! - Poor, starving peons -
I don't blame you for fighting for them!

OLIVAREZ

(Bowing low)

Your support, Senorita, gives new courage to our cause!

CONCHITA

(Close to him)

And I would like - that is - perhaps if I could help in
any way to further your cause I -

OLIVAREZ

(Up to her)

In what way does the Senorita feel she could help?

CONCHITA

(Embarrassed)

Well, perhaps - that is - as inspiration -

(with all her courage)

and shall we say - consolation to the brave leader -

OLIVAREZ

(Amused)

Trevino?

CONCHITA

Oh, Capitan, how could you make such a mistake?

OLIVAREZ

But surely the Senorita could not mean the lowly brigand
from the Sierras?

*up
put chair
back.*

CONCHITA

(Sighing up to him)

And you know, Genov, I find I am not so unsympathetic
with the Revolution as I thought - poor, starving people -
I don't blame you for fighting for them!

OLIVIER

(Rising low)

Your support, Genoville, gives me courage to our cause!

CONCHITA

(Glance to him)

And I would like - that is - perhaps if I could help in
any way to further your cause I -

OLIVIER

(Up to her)

In what way do you think Genoville could help?

CONCHITA

(Embarrassed)

Well, perhaps - that is - an invitation -

(With all her courage)

and shall we say - consolation to the brave leader -

OLIVIER

(Lamented)

Previous

CONCHITA

Oh, Genoville, how could you make such a mistake?

OLIVIER

But surely the Genoville could not mean the lovely friend

from the village?

up
to
the
key

CONCHITA

(Coyly)

Why not? We are here together - It is fate!

OLIVAREZ

(Concealing his amusement)

The Senorita is indeed generous!

CONCHITA

(Condescendingly)

A Martinez can afford to be generous.

OLIVAREZ

I am overcome!

(He seizes her, rather roughly
and tries to kiss her. She
struggles away from him)

CONCHITA

Oh - oh - ! Not here - not here! Someone might see us!

OLIVAREZ

(Playing up to her)

Where then? I burn with impatience!

CONCHITA

(Swallows hard)

My room!

OLIVAREZ

When - ?

CONCHITA

Well -

(hedges)

sometime - Some night - I-I will leave the door unlocked -

CONCHITA

(Gaily)

Why not? We are here together - it is fate!

OLIVIER

(Concealing his amusement)

The Senator is indeed generous!

CONCHITA

(Condescendingly)

A husband can afford to be generous.

OLIVIER

I am overcome!

(He seizes her, rather roughly)

and tries to kiss her. She

struggles away from him)

CONCHITA

Oh - oh - I was here - not here! Someone might see me!

OLIVIER

(Pushes up to her)

Please don't I burn with impatience!

CONCHITA

(Shrill cry)

My room!

OLIVIER

Then -

CONCHITA

Well -

(Laughs)

Excuse - some night - I-I will leave the door unlocked -

(She looks around - terrified at her own boldness)

OLIVAREZ

Oh - some night, eh?

(After a pause)

But how dare - here in this house?

CONCHITA

Why not? They all sleep well - I hear them snoring all night!

OLIVAREZ

But if they should suspect? Gringos do not love as free as we. And, after all - we are under Patterson's protection - perhaps, after all, we better wait!

(There is laughing and talking off L.
Maria's voice is heard above the rest)
(OLIVAREZ looks off L.)

CONCHITA

Ah, ha! I see how it is!

(Angrily)

You are thinking of that Maria there. You are afraid she might be jealous! You like them straight from the cradle. I was mistaken - you are not a man of discretion - you are a great boor from the hills.

OLIVAREZ

Senorita!

*up to
Pater*

(She looks around - terrified at her

own boldness)

OLIVIER

Oh - some night, eh?

(After a pause)

But how's that - here in this house?

CONSTANCE

Why not? They all sleep well - I hear them snoring

all night!

OLIVIER

But if they should suspect? Strangers do not love as true

as we. And, after all - we are under Father's protection -

perhaps, after all, we better wait!

(There is laughing and talking off L.)

Maria's voice is heard above the rest)

(OLIVIER looks off L.)

CONSTANCE

Oh, no! I see how it is!

(Angrily)

You are talking of that Maria there. You are afraid she
might be jealous! You like them straight from the cradle.
I was mistaken - you are not a man of discretion - you are
a great fool from the hills.

OLIVIER

Constance!

CONCHITA

But wait, just wait until I tell her father! Santa Maria!
See what will happen then! He cherishes her like a ewe
lamb! Wait till I tell Amilia and Senor Patterson what
has been going on under their very nose.

OLIVAREZ

Senorita!

CONCHITA

A fine way to abuse hospitality by seducing the daughter
of the house!

(She has gotten louder and louder,
and he has tried in vain to protest and
stop her)

(Others are laughing and talking outside
and have not heard her)

OLIVAREZ

(Soothing her down)

Senorita - Senorita! You are altogether wrong! The little
Maria is nothing to me - ~~As I have told you~~ - how could I
waste my time with a cold blonde convent child, half
Ginge, when there is a Martinez here! A daughter fo the
grandees of old Spain! Listen, then - tonight! After
they are all asleep - I will creep down the hallway, oh
so softly, and quietly turn the handle of your door -
And then -

(He puts his arm around her)

CONCERN

But wait, just wait until I tell her father! Santa Maria!
 See what will happen then! He'll be like a son
 I'll tell I tell Maria and then Father will
 has been going on under these very nose.

CONCERN

Concise!

CONCERN

A fine way to show hospitality by refusing the daughter
 of the house!

(She has gotten Father and Mother)

and he has tried in vain to protest and

stop her)

(Father and Mother and Father outside)

(She has not heard her)

(Feeling her down)

Concise - Concise! You are altogether wrong! The little

Marie is nothing to me - as I have told you - how could I

waste my time with a cold-blooded creature like this!

But, what is a daughter here! A daughter to the

gentleman of old Spain! Listen, then - tonight after

they are all asleep - I will creep down the hallway, on

so softly, and easily, with the handle of my door -

(The gate is open round her)

CONCHITA

(Terrified)

Tonight?

OLIVAREZ

Yes - I will be very careful and very quiet. Tonight,
then, Senorita -

(Lowers his voice)

if I am not leading my men through the city streets -
I will be in your arms!

AMILIA'S VOICE

(Offstage)

Maria - where are you, Maria?

CONCHITA

(Terrified, clutches OLIVAREZ)

Wait ! Perhaps not tonight - Why not some other night?

(He goes into peels of laughter -
and AMILIA comes in quickly)

AMILIA

(As she comes)

Maria! Maria! Come in here - this instant!

(MARIA backs into the room)

MARIA

Adios!

AMILIA

Maria - How many times do I have to tell you not to talk
to those soldiers. They are low, common boys - far
beneath your notice --

*over 65
minutes*

CONCERTA

(Terrified)

Tonight?

OLIVIER

Yes - I will be very careful and very quiet. Tonight,

then, Concerta -

(lowers his voice)

If I am not leading you down through the city streets -

I will be in your arms

AMILIA'S VOICE

(Offstage)

Marla - where are you, Marla?

CONCERTA

(Terrified, clutches OLIVIER)

Wait! Perhaps not tonight - Not some other night

(He goes into pools of laughter -

He - and AMILIA comes in quickly)

AMILIA

(As she comes)

Marla! Marla! Come in here - this instant!

(MARIA rushes into the room)

MARIA

Adios!

AMILIA

Marla - how many times do I have to tell you not to talk

to those noblemen. They are here, common boys - far

below your notice -

MARIA

They were just telling me about the cinema last night, Madre Mia! The cinema theatres have been opened so the people can go and forget how hungry they are - but they only have old films, almost worn out - and must be so funny!

AMILIA

Maria, do you realize that your father has been gone two hours!

(Turns)

Oh, Senor Capitan - tell us what to do! He only went to get what he could around the corner! Do you think they have put him in prison - ?

CONCHITA

Oh, how dreadful! Of course that's where he must be - ! They think he is a spy probably! Oh, Senor, what can we do - Shall I go to the President?

OLIVAREZ

(Turns to AMILIA)

Don't worry -
 Dona Amilia, I wouldn't be alarmed - Senor Patterson is well known in the city ~~and~~ the Mendozistas are keeping on the ^{n/b} good side of the Estatus Unidos. ~~They won't arrest any of their citizens.~~ *Americans* [Probably he could not find food near so he has gone to the outskirts of the city.]

MARIA

They were just telling me about the cinema last night.
Maria said. The cinema theatre have been opened so the
people can go and forget how hungry they are - but they
only have old films, almost worn out - and must be so

hungry

MARIA

Maria, do you realize that your father has been gone

two hours!

(Turns)

Oh, General Capitan - tell us what to do! He only went to
get what he could around the corner! Do you think they
have put him in prison - I

CONCEPCION

Oh, how dreadful! Of course that's where he must be -
they think he is a spy probably! Oh, General, what can we
do - Shall I go to the President?

OLIVIER

(Turns to MARIA)

Don't tell the General - he'll be arrested - General Capitan is
well known in the city and the authorities are keeping
on the good side of the General. Don't worry -
they'll be all right. Probably he won't find food
here as he's gone to the outskirts of the city.

CONCHITA

Oh - and perhaps he got among the rebels by mistake -
and they are holding him for ransom - or are trying to
get information out of him - !

(The three women speak at once)

AMILIA

Oh - do you think that possible?

MARIA

Why did we ever let him go!

CONCHITA

What a calamity! And I am faint for food!

(A key is put in the outside door
and PATTERSON comes in)

PATTERSON

Well, well! - What's up now?

(MARIA and AMILIA go to him)

MARIA

Father!

AMILIA

Phillip - at last!

PHILLIP

I could hear you three halfway down the block!

(He wipes his forehead - sits,
obviously tired)

AMILIA

We've been so worried about you!

CONCHITA

I have been hysterical.

CONCHITA

Oh - and perhaps he got among the rebels by mistake -
and they are holding him for ransom - or are trying to
get information out of him -
(The three women speak at once)

ANITA

Oh - do you think that possible?

ANITA

Why did we ever let him go!

CONCHITA

What a calamity! And I was taking for food!

(A key is put in the outside door)

and PATRICK comes in)

PATRICK

Well, well - what's up now?

(ANITA and CONCHITA go to him)

ANITA

PATRICK

ANITA

Patrick - at last!

CONCHITA

I could hear you three talking down the street!

(He shakes his forehead - sits)

(Angrily to her)

ANITA

There's been no word about you!

CONCHITA

I have been ignorant!

PATTERSON

Olivarez, you must have had your hands full.

CONCHITA

We thought you were slaughtered or slain or imprisoned!
We have been desperate for your safety - But where is
the food?

PATTERSON

Yes - that is what I went for, isn't it? Well, I'm sorry
to say I have had very little luck. Olivarez, the city
seems in a bad way!

OLIVAREZ

Christo! ^{Just} Why will those guns not come!

PATTERSON

(Opening a few small parcels)

Here is all I could wheedle from what shopkeepers are
open - two cans of sardines.

CONCHITA

No eggs?

PATTERSON

One can of peaches, a loaf of bread and some pickles!

CONCHITA

Pickles!

PATTERSON

I walked thirty blocks -- And I had to cash another ten
dollars, Amilia --

AMILIA

Ave Maria! Twenty dollars for nothing at all!

is near window

CONCHITA

And I wanted only one egg.

PATTERSON

Never mind, everyone says if your troops do not attack tonight, Olivarez, Mendoza will lead his troops out tomorrow.

OLIVAREZ

No, no! He'll never do that! He is too much of a coward.

CONCHITA

(Drawing herself up with anger)

Mendoza is no coward! He is a -

PATTERSON

Now, Conchita, you promised to keep the peace!

OLIVAREZ

And only just now the Senorita was telling me - among other things --

(Gives her a look. She turns away, uncomfortable)
that she had joined our cause. She felt so badly about the starting ^{owing} peons!

(He continues softly, in Conchita's ear.

He is purposefully teasing her)

Don't disappoint me tonight - ? After all, it was your suggestion - ~~and now~~ -

CONCHITA

(Still frightened, and trying to hush him)

Wait! I'll tell you later - !

(AMILIA and MARIA have started to arrange food for lunch)

CONCHITA

And I wasted only one egg.

PATRICIA

Never mind, everyone says if your troops do not attack

tomorrow, Oliver, tomorrow will lead his troops out

tomorrow.

OLIVER

No, no! He'll never do that! He is too much of a coward.

CONCHITA

(Drawing herself up with anger)

He is a -

PATRICIA

Now, Conchita, you promised to keep the peace!

OLIVER

and only just now the Conchita was telling me - among

other things -

(Oliver has a look, she turns away, unconsciously)

that she had joined our cause. She felt so badly about

the standing peace!

(The conchita's self, in Conchita's ear.

He is purposefully teasing her)

Don't disappoint me tonight - I after all, it was your

suggestion - and now -

CONCHITA

(Still frightened, and trying to push him)

Wait! I'll tell you later -

(LILLA and LILLA have started to

arrange food for lunch)

AMILIA

Here - Conchita, you can open the sardines.

CONCHITA

Sardines?

(Makes a face)

Stinking fish! Bah! Give me the peaches - !

(She takes the can to sideboard with
a flourish)

OLIVAREZ

(To PATTERSON, who is sitting at table)

Carai! - They swore they could get those guns across the
Border - not officially, to be sure - but it has been
done before. Why not again? ~~Die-mio!~~ Why, why are they
~~taking~~ so long!

CONCHITA

(Trying to open can and muttering)

Those guns will never come - you'll see! Cowards!
Brutes! All! I never open cans!

(She jabs herself with the can opener)

Ay! - Ay! - Oh, I'm wounded! - Look - blood!

AMILIA

Oh, Conchita!

MARIA

I'm so sorry!

(They go to her quickly. She is moaning
and groaning)

AMILIA

(Looking at Conchita's finger)

The skin isn't broken, Conchita - It is only bruised!

CONCHITA

Only bruised!

OLIVAREZ

(Over to her)

Ah, ~~Senorita~~ - allow me - to make it well -

(He takes her hand formally and kisses it)

CONCHITA

Why should I know how to open a can - we never eat
canned goods in our house!

OLIVAREZ

(Leaning over; still trying to devil her)

By tonight, you will have forgotten this pain. Is eleven
o'clock the hour?

CONCHITA

(Quickly)

Tomorrow night would be better.

OLIVAREZ

Why put it off?

CONCHITA

(Sees others watching)

No - and I hate canned peaches, anyhow! And, as for
sardines, I never ate one in my life! I'll have a fine
dinner off dry bread and pickles! And I wanted an egg
so badly!

OLIVAREZ

Ah, Senorita - I cannot bear such suffering.

(He moves towards door, with his hat)

I go at once to lead away my men - and call off the Revolution - that Senorita Martinez may have an egg!

CONCHITA

Now you are making fun of me! Oh, you do not know what it is to be a starving woman! We women suffer so much more than men - don't we, Amilia? And I have been so unnerved by all the things that have happened to me the last few days. Really, I have never been attacked and besieged before - the last revolution there was only a few street battles. But this! Well - I am scarcely myself!

(Conscious change)

But come, let us all eat! Why, pickles and bread make a banquet fit for a queen. I am as thrilled as a school girl over so many delicacies!

(They offer her a peach)

Well - just one or two peaches -- I can swallow them quickly.

(They offer her sardines.)

(Taking some)

How do you eat sardines? - Oh! They have their tails on! No, no. I can't do it!

(Things have been offered to OLIVAREZ,
but he has refused everything)

PATTERSON

How's this, Olivarez? Can't you eat pickles and bread, either?

OLIVAREZ

I'm not hungry ~~at all~~, Senor. Go right ahead.

AMILIA

But you must be - you have had nothing but coffee since noon yesterday.

OLIVAREZ

That is why I am not hungry, Dona Amilia. I am used to no food by now.

PATTERSON

Here, here, Olivarez! You must eat something. It isn't good for you! Really, I can't go on myself if you don't join in --

OLIVAREZ

Forgive me, Senor, but I would prefer not. You see, you are giving me protection - that is more than enough. I cannot take your food.

(He gets up and moves R.)

PATTERSON

Nonsense, man! Don't talk that way! Absurd! Really, none of us can eat if you do not share what there is with us.

CONCHITA

(With her mouth full)

No, I couldn't touch a crumb!

AMILIA

You forget what you did for my Phillip, Senor Capitan!

MARIA

(She gets up and goes to him)

Senor Capitan - please - I ask you!

(She looks up at him, distressed)

OLIVAREZ

(Takes her hand quickly and kisses it)

(Half-whispering)

with me
Ah, ~~via~~ Angela! For you, I would even eat against my will -
but - forgive me -

(change)

I think not of food now - I think only that the guns have
not come and that you (softly) *beata mia* ~~Amer-mia~~, have not enough
to eat! Caremba - ! I must get to Trevino - and see what
can be done! I'll go at once.

MARIA

(She clings to him)

No, no!

OLIVAREZ

~~Ah, bella Maria,~~ you do not want me to go - ? That is splendid!

I go - But - I come back - (whispers) - to you, ~~cara mia!~~

(He has got his arm around her) but

withdraws it as he sees others watching)

Yes - I go! I should have gone before - but now, I delay
no longer.

PATTERSON

This is madness, Olivarez!

CONCHITA

It is only a - what you call - bluff! He won't go!

(They pay no attention to her)

PATTERSON

(To OLIVAREZ)

With this house watched and everyone on the lookout for you - why, what chance would you have?

OLIVAREZ

I would disguise myself - I have it! Senorita Conchita will lend me her dress and the big hat with the cabbages - I mean, roses! -

AMILIA

And you would think to slip by unnoticed?!

CONCHITA

You needn't be sarcastic about my hat, Amilia! - You're only jealous - I had the milliner make it up for me especially and paid her not to copy it for anyone else! And I am certainly not going to give it to the Senor Capitan to drag around in the dirt!

OLIVAREZ

But, I don't walk on my head, Senorita!

PATTERSON

But, Trevino -

OLIVAREZ

Trevino - Bah! He is all whiskers! He can't get men to fight the way I can - He should have done something before

(cont.)

OLIVAREZ

this. It's ~~too~~ long! We cannot starve out our own people
this way! No - I must find a way through!

MARIA

~~No!~~ You'll be captured!

AMILIA

Maria!?

MARIA

(To others, trying to hide her distress
and embarrassment)

But I feel so protected - safe, with the Capitan her.
If anything happened he would know what to do.

OLIVAREZ

Gracias! (whispers) You lie well!

AMILIA

Your father is quite capable of taking care of us, Maria.

OLIVAREZ

Yes, Senorita - you are in no danger here - but I must
do something! I cannot ~~longer~~ bear that hungry, terrified
look in your eyes!

(CONCHITA can stand his attention to
Maria no longer)

CONCHITA

And see how thin I have gotten! I have lost two inches
around my waist!

(Pulls out waistband)

OLIVAREZ

(Mockingly)

I am in tears!

CONCHITA

But it is not your fault, Senor Capitan - You must not blame yourself - It is all the fault of the Estatus Unidos! They promised you guns and they have not sent them. Traitors!

PATTERSON

(Politely)

But, Senorita, Washington has recognized Mendoza.

CONCHITA

Then why don't they send guns to Mendoza? Why don't they do something so one side or the other can win? But they're afraid - that's what! The Americanos are afraid they might have to fight! The cowards, not to help - the poor weak country bleeding at their very doorstep!

AMILIA

Conchita!

CONCHITA

(Goes on, whipping herself up into a rage)

No - I can't stay another minute with that flag - it cuts into my very soul! - And as for you, Capitan - no wonder you can't eat the food under this roof! It gagged me! No wonder you can't bear to remain here any longer! But you may have protection under my roof where you will be free to breathe true Mexican air! Come - let us starve alone - together under our own flag!

Am OLIVAREZ

Alone? Together? - Tonight, too?

CONCHITA

(Waking up her mind)

Yes!! Come - let us go at once!

(She crosses to rack for hat and cloak.

He doesn't move)

You can hide under my cloak. I will protect you from the whole Mendozista army! Come, you shall see how loyal a true Mexican can be! - Viva Mexico!

(The boom of a gun is heard in the distance, quite muffled.

She starts, and moves one step)

Listen!

(All are listening, as there is further gun-fire in the distance, at regular intervals from now on)

At last - OLIVAREZ
At last - the guns from the Estados Unidos
At last! Jesus! Maria! - Gracias a Dios!

(MARIA and AMILIA cross themselves)

And Now, Senorita, none of us need to go anywhere! *[And soon now, we will all be free!]*

CONCHITA

Soon we will all be free
Yes, yes! ~~We are saved!~~ The Americanos have come to our rescue after all! We will not starve --

(She flings herself on Amilia and weeps)

Oh, Amilia, our prayers have been answered! I do not have to go now. I take back all I said about your beautiful Estados Unidos, Senor! Amilia, forgive me!

PATTERSON

What are the chances of our being bombarded here, Olivarez?

OLIVAREZ

None at all. Trevino will not destroy the city. We ~~can't afford to do that.~~ But Mendoza has no guns. He will have to surrender. ~~It won't be long now! A few hours only.~~ Thanks be to God and the Estados Unidos.

CONCHITA

Yes, yes. Viva Estados Unidos!

(Bitterly, to herself)

Just my luck!

OLIVAREZ

(Moving about gaily)

Bueno! Bueno!

(Imitating guns)

Boom - boom! - That's the way, Trevino! He'll make the best President Mexico ever had! - with me as his aide - With General Olivarez at the head of the army - (Ah, then you'll see - ~~What a change!~~ How our beloved Mexico will prosper!) Just a few hours now and I will be leading my men to victory! Tonight all will be -

(He turns and looks at Conchita; goes over to her)

Ah, Senorita! - tonight - you see I shall be ^{very} busy - ~~a~~ ^{ah hell} little too busy - ~~It is a~~ ^{what a} shame - you were too late.

We have wasted four days and nights! Ah, Caramba! Too bad! Too bad!

OLIVAREZ - cont.

(To others)

I was telling the Senorita that when I am a General I shall invite you all to my palacio here ~~in the city~~ and we shall have ^{for} a reunion - and ^{it} I will serve bread and pickles, to remind us of these happy days. Eh?

(With a look of mock sorrow at Conchita)

~~And nights!~~

(He turns)

Patterson - I'll always be in your debt.

PATTERSON

It's nothing at all, Olivarez - Splendid having you. You cheered us all up.

OLIVAREZ

To be a guest in your house is a privilege, Donna Amilia -
To know you all so well -

(a look at Conchita)

~~And a delight?~~ ^{to} has been delightful, and especially to know that a golden lily grows in a convent garden! -

(turns quickly)

~~Just listen - boom, boom!~~ - Yes, we will part soon now - but I hope not for long -

(With a look at MARIA)

I trust not for long!

J. L.

w/ look
of debtin
upper l.
corner

JUAN

(Voice off L)

Senorita!

(JUAN comes leaping onto the balcony - almost bursts into the room. OLIVAREZ steps into shadow. MARIA quickly goes to archway)

(Excitedly)

Senorita, the guns! You hear them?

MARIA

Yes, yes, of course!

JUAN

They surround us except to the South. They will destroy the city if Mendez won't surrender! But they say in the street Mendoza is waiting for his guns.

MARIA

His guns?

JUAN

Yes - the Gringos are sending him guns. They'll come from the South (by way of Vera Cruz.) They have landed them there already! And if the rebels don't attack the city tonight, Mendez will have more guns than they have! There will be a terrible battle!

MARIA

Oh, Juan, we'll all be killed!

JUAN

(No,) not all, just some of us soldiers.

MARIA

Juan - have you had anything to eat today?

JUAN

No - only coffee (to drink.)

MARIA

Wait - we have something left.

(She turns back into the room)

AMILIA

Maria - you mustn't give away what little food we have.

CONCHITA

No, I should think not!

PATTERSON

Amilia - the boy is hungry.

MARIA

(And) after tomorrow, (Madre Mia, we will all be dead or
there will be food. ^{plenty of} ~~or~~)

MARIA

(She is wrapping a little bread and a sardine)

You heard what he said - that Mendoz has guns on the way.

CONCHITA

(What do they mean?) What right have the Americanos to send
guns to Mendoza, too! Santa Maria! Neither side will ever
win now!

OLIVAREZ

(Whispers from the shadows at the back)

Hsst! Senorita Maria!

(He beckons her. MARIA goes to him)

(He whispers)

That Juan - there - what is he?

MARIA

Just a school boy.

OLIVAREZ

Could you get him to take a message through the lines to Trevino? ~~It will prevent a bloody battle.~~

MARIA

I can ask him --

OLIVAREZ

You tell him your father wants ^{to} ~~to get a message through~~ to Trevino -- that he'll ^{receive} ~~give him~~ a pass making it safe and ~~a reward~~ that he'll be amply rewarded.

(MARIA looks at her father questioningly)

(To PATTERSON)

It will not involve you, Patterson, and will save much bloodshed.

PATTERSON

(Nods)

Go ahead, Maria!

(MARIA crosses quickly to JUAN, taking sandwich with her)

MARIA

Juan - here.

JUAN

Ah, Senorita, (gracias!) How can I ever thank you - ! You save my life with prayers - you give me food to eat (when) --

*Patterson
comes over*

MARIA

Juan - you can do something for me! (I - that is) - my father wants to get a message through to Trevino. He ^{will give you} has a pass (that will get you through the Rebel lines) - Do you think you can get through the Mendoza lines?

JUAN

Why not? A lot of our men have gone over to Trevino in the last day or two. There is more food with them --

MARIA

You will be ^{well} rewarded (well if you get this message through.) And you will save much bloodshed.

JUAN

(Aha,) I knew your father must be an important Gringo! Yes, I will do it, Senorita. It will be exciting - like a cinema--

MARIA

Oh, thank you, Juan!

JUAN

I would do anything for you, Senorita!

MARIA

But you must not say who sent you--

JUAN

No, no!

MARIA

I'll get it then. Wait --

(Meanwhile - with whispering and gestures -

OLIVAREZ has gotten pencil and paper and

ceiling wax. He has written message and pass)

OLIVAREZ

(Reads message to PATTERSON, in low voice)

"Take city at once - Mendoza has guns on the way. I will meet you in the Plaza. Give bearer food and reward. Olivarez."

(PATTERSON nods approval. OLIVAREZ seals it;

gives it to MARIA - still whispering)

~~This is the message to be delivered with seal unbroken -
to Trevino himself -- You understand? And here is the pass.~~

(Gives her another paper)

And the pass
~~And here -~~

(He takes out a bag of money from his pocket)

~~This is to be doubled if he succeeds.~~ Tell him he is to be as careful as hell - and to be as quick as the devil!

(MARIA runs quickly to JUAN, who is eating his sandwich while he waits on balcony)

MARIA

(Hands him the sealed paper)

This is the message - to be delivered with seal unbroken to Trevino himself (--- you understand?) You are to have food and a reward from him. (And here is ~~your~~ half of your reward - the other half you get on delivery of the message.)

(Gives him purse)

And this is the pass. Now, you are to be as careful as - as possible - and quick as - as you can - !

JUAN

(Has read the pass)

Olivarez? Jesus! But your father is in with the rebels! I don't mind! I only fight with Mendoza because I am here in the city and we all must fight --

MARIA

(Now, hurry, Juan - it means so much - that message - it may prevent the big battle!

JUAN

For you - I fly! Pray for me, Senorita.

MARIA

Yes, yes
Oh yes, I will pray for you, Juan.

(He goes quickly. Maria stands watching him)

CONCHITA

(After a pause)

Well, I thought at least you'd get that boy to bring us back a little food!

AMILIA

I am going now to take my siesta, Conchita, and forget how hungry I am, and I advise you to do the same. And Phillipe, dear heart -

(She is over to him)

Do not look so worried. You are tired after your long walk -- Please you rest too, you can do nothing more now. Come - Conchita - Maria! Let us sleep all we can - then we don't need to eat.

(She goes. MARIA follows her.

CONCHITA hesitates)

CONCHITA

(Speaks coyly, over her shoulder)

You don't think, after all, you could put off taking the city until tomorrow - Mi General?

OLIVAREZ

(Bows from the other side of room)

Ah - if that were only possible!

(CONCHITA goes. PATTERSON has lit his cigar and is walking up and down; he pauses looking out of window - listening to guns)

(Lights a cigarette. After a pause)

It is true, Patterson - I am as good as General Olivarez right now!

PATTERSON

Splendid! Fine! I congratulate you.

OLIVAREZ

(After another pause)

And you know - I am a rich man already. But when I am General - I will be not only richer - but powerful! Eh?

PATTERSON

Of course! You can have everything your own way then.

OLIVAREZ

Ciertemente! And with a palacio in the city - I will --

(After a pause, while he watches Patterson)

Yes - then I will need a wife -- Don't you think so, Senor? A General must make a good showing. He must have a beautiful woman to head his household - not a mistress. I could have any of the opera singers- No, I need someone to receive foreign diplomats - to bear me children -- but I want someone I can care about as well. You are a man of the world - you understand me, don't you - Senor?

PATTERSON

I think you're quite right, Olivarez - A wife would be most helpful in your position - Any man is greatly aided by the right kind of woman.

OLIVAREZ

That's just it! The right kind of woman!

(They both smoke in silence)

(After a pause)

The Donna Amilia - she is such a fine woman - she must ~~always~~ have been a great help and comfort? And the Senorita Maria - she also must be a great comfort to you! Lucky man - Patterson!

PATTERSON

Yes - I think I am.

OLIVAREZ

But you cannot always expect to keep the Senorita Maria by your side - eh, Senor? She is very beautiful.

PATTERSON

Maria is growing into quite a beauty, certainly - but she is so young yet - I don't feel there is any chance of losing her for a long time.

OLIVAREZ

Eighteen is not so young, Senor! -

PATTERSON

For Maria it is. She is like my people - Our women don't marry, as a rule, as soon as yours.

OLIVAREZ

(Pressing the point)

Still - there are some who have?

PATTERSON

(Carefully)

Yes - of course - But Maria has not even finished her schooling at the convent.

(Firmly; looking straight at OLIVAREZ)

No - it is out of the question that she should even contemplate such a question as this. I don't want to discuss anything of this sort at all, because it is so far removed from all our minds.

(After a pause)

Now - if you will excuse me, Olivarez, I'll go and rest for a while - this foraging for food has done me up a little.

(OLIVAREZ bows. PATTERSON goes out L.

quickly, trying not to show his irritation)

(OLIVAREZ watches him out, smiling to himself)

(After a pause, he quickly crosses R. and calls softly)

OLIVAREZ

Maria! Senorita Maria!

(He comes to center and lights a cigarette)

(After another pause, MARIA comes on from R.

She sees him; hesitates, and then moves slowly over to window. He follows her)

(Half whispers)

Maria - mia Maria!

*down
table*

MARIA

(Still does not turn)

Will he be killed?

OLIVAREZ

Who?

MARIA

Juan, - who just left.

OLIVAREZ

No, not likely --

MARIA

Because if I have sent him to his death - I --

(She covers her face with her hands
and stifles a sob)

OLIVAREZ

(Puts both hands on her shoulders
and turns her around facing him)

Enough of these fears! What difference if he is killed!
He is nothing to you -- that school boy! And what is one
life? He may save hundreds!

(Puts one arm around her slowly)

But here am I! And I know now you care for me - ~~even more~~
a few months ago told me so
~~than a little!~~ The look in your eyes ~~just now gave you away!~~

(Slowly drawing her closer)

I know; and I am glad - You like me here, with my arm around
you close - You cannot deny it! Look me in the face, bella
Maria - and tell me what is in your heart! Be brave!

(She still keeps her head turned away)

(He goes on)

*fact
he
the goes to table
in of table*

*sit me
about table*

OLIVAREZ - cont.

We are wasting time - You hear the guns? Soon now ~~the~~
~~troops will enter the city and~~ I will be out there leading
my men to victory! - But who knows - a stray bullet -
and I am gone - forever!

(She stifles a cry - and takes hold of him,
still not turning)

(He goes on)

Ah - ^{pick} cara mia - I've ^{must} ~~got to~~ have you! - Victory will not
be victory if I cannot have Maria! Listen - we can be
married at once. I will get the biggest palacio in the city
for you - I will buy you diamonds and pearls and all the
silken gowns you want and all those lace other things that
girls like so much! -

MARIA

Manuel! - (Embarrassed)

OLIVAREZ

But if you are to be my wife - why not? - And I will enshrine
you - and you shall be my ^{patron} saint - ~~my patron saint~~ that I
may worship day and night!

MARIA

(Weakly)

Hush, Manuel, hush!

OLIVAREZ

Still trembling? (Still fears?) - Little frightened doe!
I have caught you in a trap - but - I will cherish you and
protect you - always. Always! (~~I will keep you safe from~~
~~these fears, if you will only let me!~~) - You need never come

OLIVAREZ - cont.

to the hills. I won't hide you up there where the sky
is so wide - no wonder it frightens you - !

MARIA

(Turns quickly)
No, no. ^{IN}The hills! With you I would not be afraid! With
you I would never be afraid - anywhere! I know I could go
out into the streets and fight with you! I did not tremble
then because I was afraid any more -- I trembled because -
Manuel, this something inside here seemed to shake my
whole being. It is not the heart, it has stopped in its
beating, it is standing still! Is this what love is?

OLIVAREZ

This, and much more! Ah, bella Maria - my golden lily -
my saint! You shall be mine then? - Say it, say it!
Don't keep me waiting any longer!

(He has her in both arms)

MARIA

Yes - yes - yes, Manuel!

(She puts her arms around him. He kisses her)

(Before the kiss is over, CONCHITA comes in
softly from R.)

CONCHITA

(Exploding)

So!! I thought as much! Fine goings on, I'm sure! What
kind of house is this, anyway! Maria, I'm amazed and
surprised! And you, Senor, you talk to me of abusing
hospitality! Caremba! Maria, I feel it my duty to tell
your parents at once!

end L. J.
maria

up h

MARIA

But, Conchita --

CONCHITA

No, you can't stop me! They must know. You are too young
and too innocent to realize your danger with this man.

A desperado! A bandit leader such as this -- this brute --
this seducer!

(He has stood laughing at her, making
her all the more angry)

(At this point, a loud knocking is heard
at the door. CONCHITA is near it; she at
once goes to the door)

CONCHITA

(Talking more to herself as she crosses to door)
That is what all men are like! I might have expected it.
Deceiving everyone!

MARIA

(Starting to door)

Conchita, no!

(She flings open the door before anyone can
stop her, and there stand two soldiers, each
armed with pistols)

(OLIVAREZ immediately flattens himself out
against the wall. MARIA is too frightened
to move)

arrives
door

l. cor.
up
on
laugh

cross
to
door
x
hide
behind
lt

OFFICER

Excuse, Senora, don't be frightened!

(He flashes a smile at her. She smiles back)

We only want to check up on how many people are living here.

CONCHITA

Ah - so! And may I ask why, Senor Lieutenant?

OFFICER

To see how much longer the city can hold out.

CONCHITA

Oh, but - we can't hold out any longer here. We are starving now. We haven't had any food for days --!

(OFFICER comes further into the room, not noticing the others, walks to table and picks up can of sardines. He turns and gives can to the soldier)

OFFICER

One sardine left, Benito. Here - give me the list.

(He exchanges long scroll of paper for the sardine can.)

(Looking over list)

Now - here - here we are -- Avenida Hidalgo No.22!

How many women?

CONCHITA

Three.

OFFICER

Three? How's that? There's only two down here.

CONCHITA

Well, there's Senora Patterson and Senorita Maria, her daughter, and I am Senorita Conchita Martinez, a guest --

OFFICER

Oh, yes - Senorita Martinez! We were at your house and no one was home - the front door was open --

CONCHITA

Yes, yes. I left in rather a hurry.

OFFICER

All right. Now - how many men?

CONCHITA

(Deliberately telling to get Olivarez in trouble)

Two.

OFFICER

Two? How's that? Only one here - that's Patterson, the American.

CONCHITA

Yes, he's one.

OFFICER

Well, whose the other?

MARIA

(Comes forward quickly)

My uncle --

OFFICER

(Looks up quickly and notes the troubled look on her face)

Oh, your uncle, eh Senorita? And what is his name, this uncle?

MARIA

Antonio Chavez --

OFFICER

Where does this uncle Antonio Chavez live when he is at home - may I ask?

MARIA

On this street - No.5

OFFICER

Strange - not ten minutes ago we saw your uncle in his own home. Perhaps the Senorita would allow me to speak with this uncle? Otherwise, it will be our duty to search the apartment.

MARIA

I will go to my father - He - that is - my uncle -- is with my father --

(She starts quickly)

OLIVAREZ

(Comes out of the shadows)

It is of no use, Senorita. I saw your father go out through the patio. I will go with these men peacefully --

(They have both turned at the sound of his voice; both reach for their pistols and cover him)

(OLIVAREZ whispers to MARIA, who is at his side)

It won't be for long now, Amor Mio! But - keep your father away - or they'll take him, too!

Long

(X)

OFFICER

(Can scarcely believe his eyes)

Jesus, Maria! Olivarez!? Search him, Benito!

(BENITO takes his arm)

MARIA

No, no. It is not Olivarez -- he just looks like Olivarez.
He is a friend of mine. A friend from over the border.
He has often been taken for Olivarez - but he is an
American and --

OLIVAREZ

(Whispers to her)

Bravo, my timid white doe!

It would be for long now etc.

OFFICER

So! Well - It has been rumored that Olivarez was in
hiding in the city. You'll come along with me, anyhow --
and we'll see whose what!

PATTERSON

(Offstage)

Amilia -- Maria -- Do I hear voices? Do you want me?

MARIA

(Runs to try and stop h r father)

Father - no!

PATTERSON

(He gets on before she can stop him)

Hello! What's this?

OFFICER

So! Senor Patterson has come back through the patio. I

OFFICER - cont.

am sorry, Senor, to trouble you, but it is necessary for you to accompany us.

PATTERSON

Certainly, Lieutenant, but - I do not understand.

OFFICER

You have been harboring the enemy.

PATTERSON

I am an American citizen.

OFFICER

That makes no difference.

PATTERSON

I would like to see my Ambassador first --

OFFICER

You can see him afterwards. He will come to the prison.

AMILIA

(Enters at this moment)

Prison? Oh, Phillipe!

(She runs to him)

PATTERSON

Now, Amilia. It will be all right. Just get word to Ambassador Tilkins.

OFFICER

Come, come, we have no time to lose.

OLIVAREZ

(Whispers)

Maria, be brave! I will come for you. It won't be long!

(She clings to him for a second)

PATTERSON

Phone the Ambassador at once, Amilia.

MARIA

Manuel! Father!

OFFICER

After you, Senors.

(They pass out in front of him)

Keep them covered, Benito.

(Turns to women with a bow)

Senoras, Senorita, your pardon for this slight intrusion.

(He goes)

CONCHITA

(Calls after him)

Lieutenant, don't forget we have no food. You won't let us starve, will you --?

OLIVAREZ

(Calls back)

You'll never starve for food, Conchita!

(AMILIA has gone to the telephone)

(MARIA bags shut the door and turns on Conchita)

MARIA

You! You she-devil! This is all your fault! You gave him up on purpose!

(All speak at once)

AMILIA

(Turning to get number over telephone)

I knew Conchita was at the bottom of this!

CONCHITA

My fault? Why, what did I do? How is it my fault? Why, Maria -- Why, Amilia - ?

MARIA

If you hadn't opened the door so quickly, Manuel could have gotten out of the apartment. If you hadn't told those men there were two men - they would never have suspicioned anything! But -- you were jealous and just because of that you sent my father and Manuel to prison -- maybe to their death. If they are shot it will all be your fault. Their deaths will be on your head --

CONCHITA

(Before Maria finishes; starts to weep)

Oh, no, no, it is not my fault! Why does everyone blame me for everything! I didn't do anything! I was trying to save you from that brute. Wait till I tell your mother - she'll be glad I -

MARIA

Tell her anything you like - but I love Manuel and I'm going to marry him - !

CONCHITA

Marry him indeed! - Hear that, Amilia?

AMILIA

(Still trying to get number over the phone -
talks at the same time)

Yes, yes - 5216 -- please be quick! Conchita, I knew you
would get us in trouble somehow! Of course it is all your
fault.

(Into phone)

5216 - still busy? Oh, Santa Maria, help us!!

C U R T A I N.

"M E J I C O"

OR

"Revolution a la Carte"

Act I.

Chavez (hoped)
pardon: p^w-don³

"M E J I C O"

or

"Revolution a la Carte"

A comedy drama in three acts

-by-

G.H. Fawcett

Place:

Mexico City.

Time:

During a recent revolution.

CHARACTERS

Phillip Patterson ----- An American.

Amilia Patterson ----- His Mexican wife.

Maria Patterson ----- His Daughter - a girl of eighteen.

Conchita Martinez ----- A friend - a woman of thirty-five.

Manuel Rodriguez Olivarez -- A Revolutionary Leader - of about
thirty years.

Juan Lopez ----- A soldier of Mendoza's troops - a
boy about seventeen.

2 soldiers of Mendoza's.

2 officers of Olivarez's.

Another soldier.

Set:

Living room in upstairs apartment of the Pattersons -- rather crowded with Spanish and American Victorian furniture. A large table used for eating is center right - and sideboard right wall. Desk left wall and hatrack near door at back.

At right -- two windows looking out on street - and front door that has outside steps leading to it - which cannot be seen.

At left -- two oval archways look out onto balcony that overhangs patio.

"M E J I C O"

Act. I.

At Rise:

When curtain rises the stage is empty - the room is half dark because the shutters are closed at the windows and the only light on the Right comes through the cracks. On the Left, subdued light comes in through the arches that lead onto balcony overlooking the patio.

The music of a guitar and a man's voice singing is heard from the patio. Desultory shots are heard from the streets off Right.

After a pause Maria backs into the room from the balcony at left. She pauses in archway - the guitar has stopped. After another pause Juan, a young boy in an ill-fitting uniform, jumps onto the balcony and appears in the archway.

MARIA

(Half-smiling, half-frightened)

You mustn't!

JUAN

It was an easy climb!

(He strikes a cord)

MARIA

Sh--! - Mother and father are taking their siesta.

JUAN

Excuse! - I spank the guitar and put it to bed too!

MARIA

But I'm not allowed to talk to the soldiers in the patio.

JUAN

Then don't talk! I will sit and play to you -- so!

(He sits in archway and strums on guitar
softly. She sits in room half in shadow)

(There are shots off Right)

MARIA

The Rebels must still be in the city.

JUAN

I hope so.

MARIA

Why?

JUAN

Because - as long as they stay - as long as there is fighting
- I don't have to go to school! No books - no studies - .
Que bueno!

MARIA

But I like the convent - I will be glad when the Revolution is over and I can go back. Someday - if my father will let me - I am going to become a nun.

JUAN

I hope he doesn't - only ugly girls need take the veil! You'd get tired of it after awhile. I know I should - praying all day and half the night. I'm tired of school already! Just think - for a week now - I have done nothing but sit and play my guitar all day long.

MARIA

Why haven't you had to do any fighting?

JUAN

We are left here to guard this street - and no rebels have come this way. Caramba, I hope they don't (ever!)

MARIA

Oh, so do I - I am frightened enough just hearing the shooting in the distance.

JUAN

You are safe - with the Americano flag flying out your window - (on the roof).

MARIA

But they might not see it - or might not care.

JUAN

They will be careful - don't worry! Neither side wants trouble with the Gringos. Both Mendoza and Trevino expect help from the Estados Unidos.

(More shots are heard coming nearer)

MARIA

That sounds nearer!

JUAN

Perhaps they are coming this way after all!

MARIA

What will you do?

JUAN

Fight, - I suppose.

MARIA

There will be dead and bleeding men in the streets! Oh, I can't bear it.

JUAN

You Gringos don't like bloodshed, do you?

MARIA

I am only half an Americana - my Mother is Spanish.

JUAN

Then you ought not to mind so much. We Spaniards are used to fighting.

MARIA

But I do mind, and Mother keeps telling me I am more American than I am Spanish. Up there they don't have revolutions very often.

(More shooting off Right)

VOICES FROM BELOW - LEFT

Hey, Juan! Lopez - Come on!

JUAN

(Rises - stands before Maria and bows)

I go. Pray for me, Senorita. I (am Juan Lopez,) not a bad boy, but a little lazy. Ask our Lord to forgive me my sins - and the Virgen Maria to grant me her protection.

VOICE FROM BELOW

Juan - Hurry!

MARIA

I will pray for you, Juan Lopez. The Blessed Mother will protect you. Adios!

(They both cross themselves - he hurries off)

JUAN

Gracias, Bella Senorita -- Adios.

(She goes quickly to the predieu at back Left. She is disturbed at her devotions by the sound of a woman's voice above the shooting and there is sound of footsteps on the outside steps)

VOICE OUTSIDE

Help! Oh, Amilia! Oh, Senor Patterson! Your protection - I beseech you -- Only your flag can save me. Dios Mio! Maria, Amilia, Senor Patterson - some one open up the door, quick!

(Maria is terrified but she tries to see who it is thru shutters. Woman pounds on outside door)

VOICE OUTSIDE DOOR

Open! Open - en el nombre de Dios!

MARIA

Who is it?

VOICE

Open - be quick - It is I - Conchita! Your friend Conchita Martinez! Open quick!

(Maria opens the door a crack. Conchita comes bursting in. She is trembling and breathless. She has a large hat on her head and a bundle of clothes in each arm.)

CONCHITA

Oh! - Oh! I faint. Water! Anything! Wine! Cognac!

(She sinks into chair after carefully putting the bundles on the table)

AMILIA'S VOICE OFF RIGHT

What is it? I come! Phillipe! Come quick - wake up - Phillipe! --

(Amilia Patterson, Maria's Mother, enters quickly from Right, bewildered, with her hair disarranged. Phillip

Patterson comes a second later from the Left. Maria and Amilia and Conchita all talk at once.)

AMILIA

Who is it? What's happened? Is that you, Conchita?

MARIA

It's Senorita Martinez! She came! I let her in.

CONCHITA

Jesus, Jose y Maria! Oh, Amilia - Oh, Signor Patterson - protect me!! I am so frightened. Such a terrible thing has happened! What shall I do!

AMILIA

What? What is it, Conchita? How could you come out in the streets with so much fighting?

CONCHITA

I had to - I had to - it was that, or either! - No - no - Never a Martinez! Oh, it was dreadful! You may take my hat, Maria - but be careful! Don't mash the roses!

(Maria takes hat)

AMILIA

But what? What is so dreadful? -- What happened to you?

CONCHITA

Oh - I cannot tell you that - I couldn't - no - no! Not before Maria! But you will let me stay here, eh? Yes, - well then it was the soldiers -- men are such brutes! It was Olivarez's men - I know it was -- they looked like such desperados!

AMILIA

But what did they do to you, Conchita?

(Conchita gives her a look)

You can't mean -- surely --? Oh, no -- no!

(She groans)

CONCHITA

(She wails)

Oh -- isn't it dreadful -- I was all alone!

AMILIA

(Moaning)

What shall we do! We are all in danger! Oh, my poor friend.

Oh my poor Maria!

(She cries and embraces both Conchita and Maria)

CONCHITA

You won't turn me out, will you?

PATTERSON

(Exasperated from trying to get a word in)

Please -- both of you -- quiet for one second!

(After they quiet down)

Now, Senorita Martinez, do you mean to say the rebel soldiers are breaking into houses and assaulting women?

CONCHITA

Oh, but they won't here! With your flag flying -- we are safe here. You will let me stay, won't you? You will give me sanctuary under your flag -- I beg you, Senor?

PATTERSON

Of course, Senorita! Certainly you can stay as long as you like.

CONCHITA

Oh, gracias -- Senor - gracias -- I kiss your hand!

(She does so - making Patterson most uncomfortable)

I kiss your flag --

(She jumps up and gets flag from mantle and kisses it)

AMILIA

But how did it happen, Conchita?

MARIA

Yes, tell us?

CONCHITA

(She puts flag up)

Your beautiful flag! Well - I was alone when they came - the brutes! All alone! Imagine!! - My servants are all fighting - some on one side - some on the other - and the women have gone to camp with the men.

AMILIA

Yes - yes!

CONCHITA

For two days I have had no one. Oh, I have been so frightened! My handkerchief, Maria? Oh, here it is - never mind, child! Well - today they started fighting in my street. Bullets everywhere! Machine guns! Everything! You can't imagine

CONCHITA (Cont.)

how awful! Finally they came to my door - they started breaking it in - I screamed - they burst the door down - I ran - hundreds of them after me!

AMILIA

Where did they finally corner you?

CONCHITA

Oh, before they could catch me I had gotten out of the back door and was running through the streets with the bullets flying past my head. Then - your flag - I saw it flying there! I came! I love it! I bless it!

AMILIA

But, Conchita, you said you had been assaulted?

CONCHITA

Well - the house was assaulted.

AMILIA

But you? Did none of them lay hands on you?

CONCHITA

They would have if I had not been too quick for them - the fiends! - they ransacked everything - I only had time to snatch up a few valuables as I ran! See - I am destitute!

(She pulls out some valuable jewels from her waist)

AMILIA

But, Conchita ---

CONCHITA

(Goes on)

I could save only these few. Where are the rest? Oh - here!

CONCHITA (Cont.)

(She pulls out more valuable jewels from her sleeves.)

AMILIA

But, Conchita, if you had time to collect all these and no one so much as touched you - why I --

CONCHITA

Oh - but they would have! You know what men are like!

AMILIA

(Irate)

Not at all! All men are not like that! They might have only been looking for food after all, and you distinctly said ---

CONCHITA

Amilia, I believe you are sorry I was not assaulted! Don't you see - I was alone! And - well! men have always - that is - I have always had to protect myself - I am that kind! Of course - some women -

(Gives her a look)

But I - it is not my fault if - well, you see, you cannot understand, Amilia!

AMILIA

(Furious)

Oh, can't I, indeed? Yet I am a married woman --! I have a husband - while you! --

(They glare at one another)

PATTERSON

Please, Amilia --

CONCHITA

That's right! Fling it in my face that I am an old maid. I am a guest in your house - but you taunt me! If you only knew! Dios Mio! The chances I have had! When as for you - you could get none of our men - only an Americano!

AMILIA

Indeed! So! If that's the way you feel about the Americanos you needn't seek protection under our roof, Conchita Martinez!

CONCHITA

What? You would put me out of your house!

(Starts gathering up bundles)

Jesus, Jose y Maria! Asked out before I hardly get in! Dios Mio - but I will go. I never stay where I'm not wanted.

PATTERSON

Amilia, she can't go out in the street now!

CONCHITA

Oh - but you can't stop me now! It makes no difference whether I'm killed - I'm not wanted here! Oh yes - I shall go. I may be shot - but -

(She starts. Conchita gets to the door - she starts to open it - the shooting is louder - she shuts it quickly, terrified)

Ave Maria! --

(She crosses herself - speaks very meekly)
that

Amilia, I didn't mean/what I said about the Americanos.

It was just because I am jealous that I spoke that way. I always wanted to marry an Americano myself. It is the real

CONCHITA (Cont.)

reason why I have never married at all. If you will just forgive me - I will go to confession as soon as the Revolution is over.

AMILIA

It is for Phillipe to forgive.

CONCHITA

(Over to him)

Ah, Senor Patterson, can you forgive me? After that very dreadful handling by the Rebel soldiers I am so unnerved I scarcely knew what I was saying.

PATTERSON

Certainly, of course, Senorita - it is all forgotten.

CONCHITA

If you only can forgive me and let me stay here until the Revolution is over I will be grateful until my dying day. A Martinez knows how to be grateful. I will remember you in my will - and I will do anything you say while I am under your roof.

PATTERSON

Of course, I have already said for you to stay, Senorita.

AMILIA

Come, Conchita, bring your things. You can have my bedroom - I will go in with Maria.

CONCHITA

(To Patterson - still near him)

Ah, Senor Americano - how can I ever thank you -- ? But I suppose strong, kind men like you are used to forgiving us

CONCHITA (Cont.)

poor frail women. I shall always feel you are like a father to me - or rather, I should say, a big brother. My younger brother in the army I scarcely ever see. I need a big brother to tell all my troubles to.

AMILIA

(Irate)

This way, Conchita. I think after all you and I will share a room, and you can tell all your troubles to me!

(She starts)

CONCHITA

But I need a man's shoulder to lean upon!!

(She giggles and sees Patterson does not respond)

Yes, yes, I come, Amilia - my things? - Maria, you may take that bundle. This was my best dress --

(They start, Maria looking very disgusted)

(Conchita turns)

Wait! Listen! The shooting has stopped! What can it mean?

(She rushes to window)

MARIA

The rebels have been driven out. Maybe the Revolution is over! How wonderful!

CONCHITA

(Flings open blinds)

Let us see!

AMILIA

Be careful!

CONCHITA

(Leaning out)

No - no - there they are! Massed in the street! Hundreds of Rebels! What can that mean?

PATTERSON

(Has gone to window)

They are gathering for an attack.

MARIA

Look, they're coming from all the side streets.

CONCHITA

The fiends! Oh, how I hate them and their despicable leader Trevino - and that bandit Olivarez! Mendoza's the man! The best President we ever had!

(She rushes out onto balcony)

Viva Mendoza! Viva Mendoza!

(The Pattersons look at each other in consternation)

PATTERSON

She mustn't do that! Senorita, come in!

MARIA

Senorita Martinez, father called you!

CONCHITA

Down with Olivarez - viva Mendoza! You beasts! You swine! You break into ladies' houses - you steal!

(Some soldiers laugh at her from street)

PATTERSON

(Trying to take her arm)

Senorita, you must come in! You endanger our neutrality!

CONCHITA

Let me alone!

(Shouts)

Viva Mendoza! - Mendoza, el Presidente!

(Patterson drags her back)

CONCHITA

You hurt me! Senor, you dare to touch a Martinez!!

PATTERSON

I am sorry, Senorita, I hurt you - but you cannot endanger our lives that way.

CONCHITA

But your flag is protection!

PATTERSON

That's just it - we are supposed to be neutral! You would not only get me into trouble - but my country!

(He closes blinds and locks them)

CONCHITA

(Sputters)

But surely the Estados Unidos is going to support Mendoza? Hasn't Washington recognized Mendoza! But if you are not for Mendoza - I can not stay here. I would be a traitor - I am not wanted anyhow -- I say only "Viva Mendoza" and you --

AMILIA

Conchita, I have not finished my siesta! Are you coming?

CONCHITA

There is to be a battle under our very noses and you want me to sleep!!

(Shooting starts - very loud - just below them. Amilia groans and cowers in one corner - Maria kneels and crosses herself, praying in the other - Conchita rushes to blinds to look between the slats)

AMILIA

Conchita, don't! Come away!

CONCHITA

I must see! I must see the fighting.

PATTERSON

You are in danger, Senorita, come to one side.

CONCHITA

(Looking out on tip-toes)

Oh, it is terrible! They are fighting with knives and bayonets! Oh -- ! One of our men just ran two rebels through - both at once - so --

(She illustrates)

with his bayonet! They are that close!! Oh - I think I see Olivarez, the wretch!

(One bullet comes through window - high up - Conchita crouches, Maria screams and clings to her father.)

AMILIA

Phillipe, Maria - where are you?

(She runs to him)

PATTERSON

Right here - Amilia - Maria and I are both all right.

CONCHITA

(Weakly)

I'm all right too.

AMILIA

Only by the grace of God! we are willing to harbor you, not a corpse!

CONCHITA

Hush! Listen - it's quieter.

(She slowly raises up a little again)

Oh! Look! The rebels are running, and shooting - and running.

Look - we're driving them away. See they are on the run at last! How splendid!

PATTERSON

(Looks carefully - sideways)

Yes - they are.

CONCHITA

See - the street is strewed with bleeding rebels!

(She opens window blinds)

Ave Maria Purissima! A triumph! How glorious!

PATTERSON

A triumph? Who for?

CONCHITA

For us! For Mendoza!

PATTERSON

What good will it do Mendoza that those poor devils are slain?
 What good does it do if Mendoza does triumph as you call it?
 If Mendoza were any good as President there would be no revolution. But if the rebels win how do we know they will be any better?

CONCHITA

Bah! You Americanos! You don't feel! You are like mummies!
 I have heard you say you were neutral but I never knew you meant it! Dios Mio, what a people! You don't take sides!
 Things don't matter to you? How can you live?

AMILIA

Never mind that now, Conchita. Come - let us try to get a little rest. I am worn out with all the noise and excitement!

CONCHITA

Yes - yes - that's a good idea!

(As she gathers up her things)

Let's take our siesta while it is quiet. There may be another battle soon and I don't want to miss it.

(She hurries off Right - after Amilia)

Come, Maria, my things are there!

(Maria, quite disgusted,
 picks up Conchita's bundles and follows her out)

(Patterson crosses to the windows Right - looks out
 - closes the blinds half-

way -> crosses center left
to desk - gets out a bottle
of ink - looks to see how
full it is - then crosses
Left and exits)

(After a second's pause,
Maria comes in quickly -
looks around, then crosses
to arch Left and out on
balcony)

MARIA

(Calls softly)

Juan! Juan Lopez! Are you safe?

(A swift, firm knocking is
heard on front door. Maria
comes into archway - listens
- knocking is repeated. She
crosses hesitatingly. Knock
comes again - swifter and
louder)

MARIA

Who is it?

VOICE FROM OUTSIDE

It is Antônio Chavez.

MARIA

Is that you - Uncle Antonio?

VOICE FROM OUTSIDE

Yes - yes - Maria, open!

(She unlocks door smilingly.
A man almost jumps in. He
locks door quickly, turns,
sweeps off his hat and bows.)

MAN

Your pardon --

(He goes quickly to window and cautiously
looks out through blinds)

MARIA

(She is stunned into silence. She has
watched him, dazed and terrified)

You said you were Uncle Antonio?

MAN

(Turns and bows again)

Your pardon --

MARIA

(Twisting her dress with her hands in fright)

Please go!

MAN

(Coming to table - nonchalantly)

Ah, Senorita - is that kind? We have only just met ~~and have~~
~~not even been introduced~~ - and you ask me to go!

MARIA

(As before)

Please go!

MAN

You will at least let me light my cigarette first?

MARIA

(Again as before)

MARIA (Cont.)

Please go!

MAN

Caramba! But the Senor Americano's daughter is a little beauty! Senorita, if your father is at home - perhaps you would be so kind as to --

MARIA

(Coming out of her trance)

Yes - yes - father --

(She starts running off Left)

Father! Come quick! Father!

PATTERSON (Off Stage)

What is it, Maria?

MARIA

A man! A soldier! I let him in! He said he was Uncle Antonio!

PATTERSON

(Comes into the room with pistol drawn)

Sir, what is it? What do you want here?

MAN

Senor -

(He bows)

only sanctuary under your flag.

PATTERSON

No - no - you can't stay here.

AMILIA

(Comes in quickly)

Who is it, Phillipe?

MAN

But, Senor --

PATTERSON

This is neutral ground. You must leave instantly!

MAN

But, Senor Patterson, perhaps you do not recognize --

PATTERSON

(Goes right on)

It makes no difference which side you are on - I can't harbor any soldier. It not only endangers my neutrality but the lifes of my wife and daughter.

(Conchita has crept in from Right)

MAN

~~Caramba~~ - you are right, Senor! In my haste I did not think of the danger to your wife and daughter - ~~and to the lady -~~

(He flashes her a smile)

I will go. (sets)

(He picks up his hat and starts backing to door, leaving)

Your pardon -- ~~I go!~~

(The light catches him full across the face and Patterson suddenly recognizes him)

PATTERSON

Oh, great God! It's you, Rodriguez!

(Puts gun on table and quickly goes to him -taking him by the hand)

I didn't recognize you. I'm so sorry, old man! What a wel-

PATTERSON (Cont.)

come!! That was dreadful of me, but the light in here - well, well! -- Amilia, Maria, this is the Rodriguez I've told you about. Captain Rodriguez, my wife, Senora Patterson, and my daughter, Senorita Maria.

*Senora
Senorita*

CONCHITA

And here I am!

PATTERSON

I beg your pardon, of course, and Senorita Martinez - a neighbor.

MAN

(Bows low)

Senoras. *Senorita*

PATTERSON

Amilia, this is the man that saved my life that time up in the Sierras, mine and your brother's -- remember?

AMILIA

No, you never told me, Phillipe.

MARIA

Oh yes, Mother, you remember. Father did tell us! He and Uncle Antonio were going to the mines and bandits captured them and tied them to the trees --

AMILIA

Of course, of course! I remember now!

PATTERSON

And they were just about to dig the gold fillings out of my teeth? Well, it was this gentleman that came along and made them free us.

P. gave you to Amilia

PATTERSON (Cont.)

(To him)

They certainly were in awe of you, Rodriguez! And what a good dinner that was you gave us at your camp afterwards!

MAN

It was nothing, Senor!

l.e. by table

AMILIA

(Has gone over to shake his hand)

Senor Captain, let me take you by the hand! My daughter and I owe you a debt of gratitude we can never pay!

CONCHITA

(Goes over to him)

All of Senor Patterson's friends owe you a debt of gratitude. It was noble and fine of you to do such a brave deed.

MAN

Gracias, Senorita.

CONCHITA

If we had more men like you fighting for us we would have put down the Revolution long ago!

MAN

The Senorita is indeed kind.

CONCHITA

My brother is in the army - Colonel Jaime Martinez. Perhaps you know him?

MAN

Yes, ~~Senorita~~ ^{very} - I know the name well.

CONCHITA

What is your name, Senor? I did not hear it all.

MAN

(With a bow)

Captain Manuel Rodriguez/Olivarez!

(All start)

PATTERSON

Olivarez -- ?

OLIVAREZ

You are surprised, Senor? I go in disguise in the hills.

~~It is a protection - not always to be myself! It has saved~~
~~my life several times!~~ *It has saved my life*

AMILIA

Olivarez - the Rebel Leader?

OLIVAREZ

(Bows)

I lead my men in the Revolution, Senora. But just now I got
 separated from them and had to seek refuge in the city. That
 is why I am here!

PATTERSON

Well - no wonder Antonio and I were so safe and so well taken
 care of since it was Olivarez himself who --

OLIVAREZ

(Bowing again)

I thank you, Senor - and now, I must go - Adios, Senoras!

PATTERSON

No - no - you can't go --

AMILIA

The streets are full of Mendoza's men - you can't go now --

OLIVAREZ

But, Senora, it was thoughtless of me to come at all. I could not think of putting you -

(Bows shortly)

and the gracious Senorita --

(bows long - low to Maria)

to any risk on my account.

(Conchita is furious that she has been left out)

AMILIA

Nonsense, Senor, you saved my husband and my brother's lives - how could you think we would not shield you at any risk!

PATTERSON

~~Of course, Olivarez. Sit down - nothing would induce us to let you go.~~

AMILIA

No one saw you come - we will keep the room dark - make no noise, then no one can possibly know anyone else is here!

OLIVAREZ

It is too much to ask, I will find another hiding place until --

PATTERSON

(Firmly)

Olivarez - I insist. I regret my hasty words before I recognized you. You put me in a very embarrassing position if you do not remain.

OLIVAREZ

Well, it won't be for long - ~~certainly~~. Our troops are ~~only~~
just outside the city, waiting for guns ^{to come} ~~that are on the way~~
from the Border. They are due any hour!

PATTERSON

No matter how long. Sit down. We'll make you as comfortable
as possible. We haven't much room, but --

OLIVAREZ

(Bowling to Maria, whom he has been watching
off and on)

And is the Senorita willing that I put her to such a risk?

MARIA

(A little taken a back)

Why, Senor - of course - anything my Mother and Father decide.

(Conchita makes a movement.

Olivarez turns to her quickly.)

OLIVAREZ

And does the Senorita Martinez --

CONCHITA

(Drawing herself up)

The Senorita Martinez does not! If this man stays - I go!
I cannot possibly stay under the same roof that harbors a
rebel! Not only a rebel but the fiendish leader of the brutes
that attacked me!

OLIVAREZ

In that case I am the one to leave--

(He bows and starts)

PATTERSON

No - no - Olivarez!

CONCHITA

(Bowing formally)

No, Captain Manuel Rodriguez Olivarez, since our host considers your life more valuable than mine, I am the one to go! Of course, when Mendoza discovers that the Senor Americano has harbored a rebel, and such a rebel - well, to be sure, it is none of my business but - it will probably mean war with the Estados Unidos - ! That is all! But, as I said, it is none of my affair. I wash my hands of you all. I go!

AMILIA

Do, by all means, Conchita. Let me help you pack up!

OLIVAREZ

But no, no I ~~cannot have it!~~ You were all a happy family until I came. Now ~~I cause trouble and maybe even~~ - no - I am the one to go!

PATTERSON

You will do nothing of the kind, Olivarez. I'm sure if the Senorita would --

CONCHITA

No - no - I know how you all feel - I am only a woman - a man comes first, even a rebel.

OLIVAREZ

I am sure no one could come before a Martinez.

CONCHITA

We at least know how to behave before our enemies! Adios!

OLIVAREZ

One moment, Senorita!

(He steps over to her)

Need we be enemies? Surely the Senorita Martinez could afford to look kindly on a poor devil from the Sierras.

(Quietly in her ear)

Her first scornful glare has already made him her slave!

CONCHITA

(She looks at him, then turns)

You need not think you can win me over by flattery! I am not that kind!

OLIVAREZ

We hill folk only speak what is in our hearts, Senorita.

CONCHITA

Ridiculous! (~~-----Spanish?~~)

OLIVAREZ

The Senorita is indeed beautiful in her anger.

(To others)

But, you see, I was right. I must go. ~~If we men fight we~~ ^{never} ~~have to take the risks.~~ I will be recognized sooner or later - but ~~never~~ think I will be taken a prisoner. I will die fighting to the end. Adios!

(He gives them all a sweeping bow)

(There is a volley of shot
outside at the same moment)

CONCHITA

(Half screams)

Oh! - No - no! - I cannot have the life of this man on my head! Since no one will allow me to leave -

(More shots)

I will have to stay - though it is against my will. I sink my pride.

(With overbearing dignity to Patterson)

We will both remain, Senor!

PATTERSON

Ah, that's better, Senorita Conchito! ~~Now, let us all have a little wine and --~~

JUAN'S VOICE FROM THE BALCONY

Senorita! Senorita Maria!

PATTERSON

Be careful!

(Olivarez immediately flattens himself out against the wall where there is no light.)

AMILIA

Who is that?

(Patterson starts to go to balcony)

MARIA

Let me! It's the soldier, Juan --

(She gets there first. To Juan -- just seen on balcony)

MARIA (Cont.)

Sh! My father and mother -- !

JUAN

Senorita - your prayers saved me - it was miraculous - my escape!

MARIA

It was the Blessed Mother!

(They both cross themselves)

JUAN

(Yes - it was a miracle!) I was behind a shutter - a bullet just grazed my head - ! Then I shot him - the one that was after me, and he rolled over in the gutter. It was indeed a miracle! I never shot anything before - not even a rabbit! Say you will always pray for me, Senorita.

MARIA

Yes - yes, (I will! Go,) but you must go now.

JUAN

(Yes, I will go.) (But) they say all the rebels are out of the city at last. But ~~they say~~ ^{they} they plan to camp outside and ^{to} try to starve us out.

MARIA

(Oh, how dreadful!

JUAN

(Maybe! But) I do not think I shall mind. I'll have all the time I want to play my guitar!

MARIA

(Yes, but) you must go now - ! Mother and father are just inside!

JUAN

I go! Do not fear, Senorita, I will not let you starve!
Adios! But don't forget to pray for me!

MARIA

Yes - yes!

(He goes - Maria turns into the room)

It is one of the soldiers ^{only} from below. You heard him? He says the rebels - that is - your men, Senor Captain, are planning to starve us out.

OLIVAREZ

(Laughing)

Carai! You will not starve, Senorita! ~~Seen~~, before you are even hungry, our guns will be here. And then if Mendoza is wise, there will not even be a battle! Bueno!

AMILIA

Maria, I have told you not to talk to those soldiers in the patio!

PATTERSON

And, Maria, you must be more careful than ever now that the Captain is here.

MARIA

Yes, father.

PATTERSON

But come now, let's have the wine - and anything you have to eat, Amilia. ^{Bring up your chair Olivarez} I know Olivarez here has an appetite after so much fighting! ^{you would have} And Senorita Martinez must be hungry after her terrible experience? Come, Senorita, will you sit here by me?

(She sits between the two men much on her dignity - while Maria and Amilia bring wine and bread and cheese, etc.)

AMILIA

You will please excuse the service. Maria and I will do the best we can. Our servant got frightened and went back to her people in the country when the Revolution started!

PATTERSON

Now, Olivarez, I'm curious to know how you got caught in the city. Of course, if for any reason you don't wish to --

OLIVAREZ

No, no, Senor - it need not be a secret to you.

(Olivarez jumps up as he sees Maria starting to find a chair)

Allow me, Senorita!

(He places a chair for her on his right)

Here, please, as a great favor to me!

(She sits, a little confused and embarrassed.

He gazes at her blonde hair)

Senor Patterson, there is no such gold as this in all our mines -- eh?

PATTERSON

My daughter gets her blonde hair from her grandmother - my Mother.

(Olivarez has seated himself and grins broadly at Conchita. She turns a cold shoulder to him. He quickly leans over to her as she tries to push her chair away)

OLIVAREZ

of course
Ah, but shiney black hair like the Senorita Martinez's is *also very*
just as beautiful! (~~I drink to the Senoras!~~)

(He drinks quickly)

and But now - you want to know why and how I am here! *at* Bueno!
This is what happened! We fight - I am in the thick of it -
leading my men. *my men* They are brave ~~men~~ - but I am braver still.
I fight! I fight so hard I do not see where I am! Suddenly
I look around. Carai! There are only Mendozistas!

MARIA

Oh, Senor ~~Capitan~~, how awful!

AMILIA

To think of it!

CONCHITA

You think you can fight the whole Mendoza Army alone, eh?

OLIVAREZ

(Leaning over)

Should you have been there to encourage me - yes! But as it was - I run! Shooting and killing as I go! Twice they are nearly upon me!

CONCHITA

If only they had caught him!

OLIVAREZ

In this case
Then, Senorita, you and I might never have met! Next I dodge up an alley. I shoot - I run again. I am, what you Americans call - smart! I hide in a doorway. Caramba! They have lost me!

CONCHITA

Fools!

OLIVAREZ

(Amused at Conchita)

No, no, Senorita - your men are clever, but I am more clever - ~~that is all!~~

CONCHITA

(She grunts)

Indeed?

OLIVAREZ

Listen! Quickly I pull off my coat. All our shirts are the same! It is the easier to change sides! ~~Just now it saved my life perhaps!~~ *and in a gutter* Buena! ~~Next~~ I find this old hat in the gutter. It is a fine disguise - eh? ✓✓

(He has put the hat on and risen)

Now, I light a cigarette - carelessly - like this! →

(He does it and starts to walk)

And, with the greatest ease, I ^{stroll} slowly walk down the street in broad daylight - as if I only walk for pleasure!

MARIA

How wonderful!

CONCHITA

Is it so clever to change your hat and light a cigarette?

OLIVAREZ

(Goes right on)

If ^{any one asks} any should stop me I would say - "I go to see my Senorita." And is it not so?

(He chucks Conchita under the chin)

Because I know exactly where I am going! I have already seen your flag, Senor, and I have seen the Senorita --

(Indicates Conchita)

How could I help it when she called such compliments to me ^{lets} and my men from the balcony there.

(Winks at Patterson)

And, too, I remembered ^{your} ~~the~~ street and ~~the~~ number you had ^{gave} ~~given~~ me in the hills, and your hearty invitation to ^{visit} ~~come~~ to see you whenever I was in the city. Bueno! I am in the city now!

PATTERSON

Yes, yes - bueno!

OLIVAREZ

(So, to get here I have to retrace my steps.) But ^{remember} I am not Olivarez ~~remember~~ - a leader in the great revolution - a Capitan in Trevino's Army -- no, with a turn of the hand I have become only a lowly peon, but - a lover!

^{vanishes}
(Leans on Conchita)

CONCHITA

Bah!

OLIVAREZ

(He laughs loudly)

Still I do not feel safe until I am under your roof, so when I knock on this door I play a trick on the lovely Senorita Maria! ~~It was cruel, and I feel very bad about it now!~~
Perhaps she has forgiven me - eh?

(He has turned to Maria, who looks away shyly. He goes right on)

You see, I say I am her Uncle, and I call her name - because I remember the Senor Patterson have a daughter Maria! But I would never want to frighten or trick again so charming a Senorita as ~~Senorita Maria!~~

(To her)

Say you have forgiven me - or I - I will have to go at once.

~~I could not stay if --~~

MARIA

(Looking up quickly)

Oh no, Senor Capitan - don't go. I have forgiven you!
Of course!

OLIVAREZ

(Takes her hand and kisses it)

Gracias, mille gracias!

PATTERSON

My daughter understands, of course, that in war anything is fair.

OLIVAREZ

(With a look at Maria)

And in love, as well?

PATTERSON

So the saying goes.

(Patterson and Amilia exchange glances)

OLIVAREZ

(Laughs boisterously)

Bueno! Now all is well! And we will be ^{be} all like one ^{big} happy family, eh?

(He nudges Conchita, who is beginning to thaw. He continues to her in low tones)

Yes, I am a lucky fellow - I come at the right moment! The Senorita Conchita Martinez is still here - it is fate!

(Louder to others)

Yes, and it is a ^{good} good piece of luck for the Revolution after all! Now my men will never abandon the seige! They think I am wasting away in a Mendoza prison! While instead, here I am - safe! With food and wine - and best of all, with three beautiful ^{and} Senoras! ~~Yes~~, thanks to you, Patterson, we are all safe under the flag of the Estados Unidos. Viva Estados Unidos! ^{and} They are ~~also~~ sending us guns to win our revolution! Viva -- !

CONCHITA

(Breaks in irately)

Yes - yes! Viva Estados Unidos. But because they will send guns to Mendoza -- they have recognized Mendoza -- they will send guns to us - not to you - you -- !!!

Mendoza

Bay-a-

OLIVAREZ

Senorita!

(Calming her)

~~Bella~~ Senorita, if we must quarrel - let it be as lovers, not as enemies!

(He smiles at her -- she turns away)

You will not even smile -- ? ^{Carai} But you cannot refuse to join me in a toast to our host and hostess, eh?

(After a pause she picks up her glass)

(With his glass raised)

To our benefactors - Senor and Senora Patterson --

(He turns and looks hard and long at Maria)

And to their blue-eyed, ^{golden} blonde-haired daughter - Senorita Maria -- !

(He drinks slowly, looking into her eyes as the curtain descends slowly)

C u r t a i n